



# Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YR. C SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 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 Reading ~ Luke 3:1-6*

*John preaches repentance and baptizes in  
the region of the Jordan.*



## ✠ Masses & Mass Intentions



Saturday, December 7

8:00am – Mary Gallagher ✠

5:00pm – Lucia & Gualberto Pimentel ✠

Sunday, December 8

8:30am – John Royle ✠

10:30am – Patrick Volk ✠

6:00pm – Laurette Tetrault ✠

Monday, December 9

9:00am – Marlene Sauer ✠

Tuesday, December 10

6:00pm – Richard Sauer

Wednesday, December 11

7:00am – Fr. Vincent Ha

Thursday, December 12

9:00am – Doris Machala ✠

Friday, December 13

9:00am – Alex Scherger ✠

| OPERATING FINANCES                                   |                  |
|--|------------------|
| OCTOBER 1-31, 2024                                   |                  |
| Operating Budget 2024                                | \$ 60,990        |
| General Envelope Collection                          | \$ 40,286        |
| Loose Collections                                    | \$ 4,099         |
| Future Development                                   | \$ 2,499         |
| Sale of Church Supplies & Other                      | \$ 8,860         |
| \$ 55,744 - Budget Vs Actual                         | <b>-\$ 5,246</b> |
| SPECIAL COLLECTIONS                                  |                  |
| Together in Action (TIA)                             | \$ 16,699        |
| St Vincent de Paul                                   | \$ 4,389         |
| World Mission  | \$ 1,430         |
| Clergy Retirement                                    | \$ 110           |
| Mission Mexico                                       | \$ 120           |
| CARO   | \$ 20            |
| Seminary Fund  | \$ 60            |
| Needs of CDN Church                                  | \$ 75            |
| <i>Thank You<br/>for your Generous Contributions</i> |                  |
| Average Weekly Attendance                            | 993              |



2024 to Date: \$69,860  
only 98% of total needed!

**The end of the year is fast approaching.**

**We only have 2 more weeks  
to raise \$1,078.00 left... YIKES!!!**

*Thank You & May God bless you  
& your generosity!!!*

Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9.

Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6.

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11.

Luke 3:1-6.

Preparing the Way. In announcing the first coming of the Messiah, John the Baptist urges all people to be right with one another and the world. In awaiting the coming, prophet Baruch tells us how to dress for that day – clad in justice and peace and mercy. In praying for us, as we await the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, Saint Paul confidently urges us to do good work, to love more and more, and to be filled with what is right.

✦ In these troubled times, how can I make things right with \_\_\_\_\_?

✦ What good work of justice and peace can I do this week?

✦ What mercy work is Jesus urging me to do?



**Special Collections  
DECEMBER**

Future Development

**Together in Action**

Society of

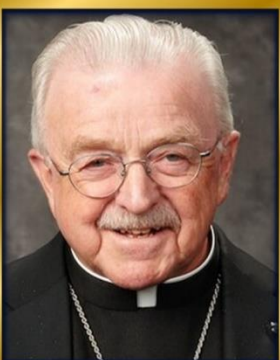
St. Vincent de Paul

**December 12, 2024**

**Mission Mexico**

**December 25, 2024**

**Christmas Offering**



**Most Reverend  
Frederick B. Henry**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the  
Diocese of Calgary

April 11, 1943 ~ December 3, 2024

Eternal rest grant unto him, O  
Lord, and let perpetual light  
shine upon him.

May he rest in peace... Amen

**The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated  
at St. Mary's Cathedral (219 18 Ave SW,  
Calgary, AB) on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 10:30  
a.m., with the Most Reverend William T. McGrattan  
as principal celebrant.**



*First Saturday Mass*

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

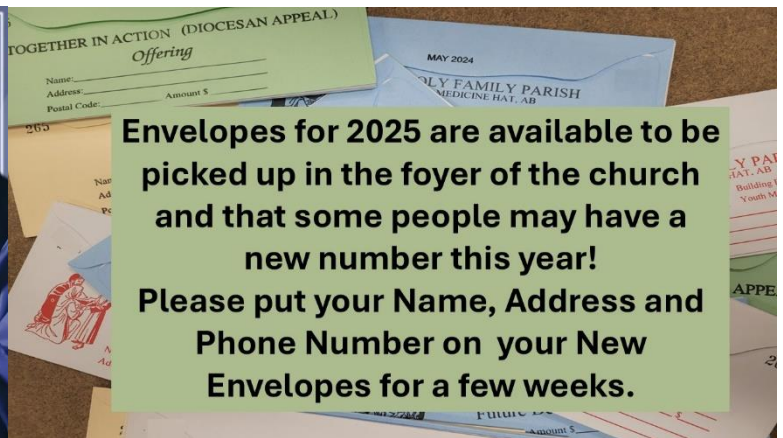
*December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024*



TOGETHER IN ACTION (DIOCESAN APPEAL) Offering

Envelope for 2025 are available to be picked up in the foyer of the church and that some people may have a new number this year!

Please put your Name, Address and Phone Number on your New Envelopes for a few weeks.



Hey Kids... get involved in the 5:00 Christmas Eve Mass

**THE YOUTH CHOIR**

looking for kids – Gr. 2 – Young Adults

Practices are December 15<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM

& new this year before the 5:00 Mass...

**NATIVITY PAGEANT**

Looking for kids – 5 to 10 years old

Practices are December 8<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM

Email SALLY - sac.prep@hollyfamilymh.ca



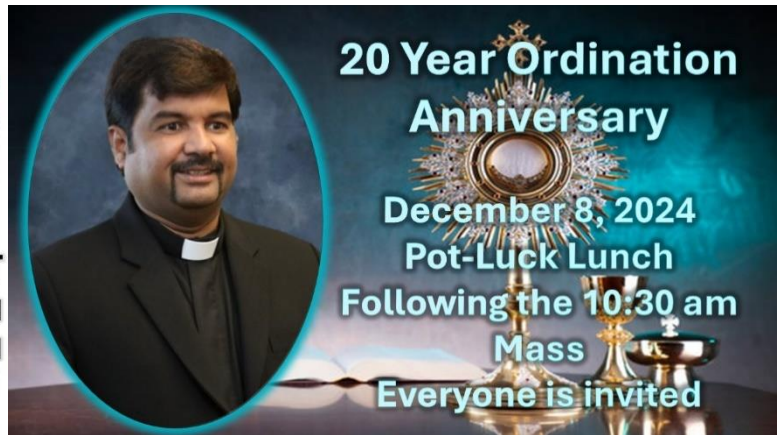
**20 Year Ordination Anniversary**

December 8, 2024

Pot-Luck Lunch

Following the 10:30 am Mass

Everyone is invited



Legion of Mary Annual General Reunion

All Legion of Mary members are invited to the Annual General Reunion on December 8<sup>th</sup> in the hall at Holy Family Parish from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. In addition to praying our Legion prayers, visiting, refreshments and singing some Christmas Carols, there will also be short talk on the Immaculate Conception. Please feel free to bring some light refreshments to share. Thank you.



**Holy Family Parish Catholic Women's League Christmas Potluck**

December 10, 2024

5:00 PM Adoration

5:30 PM Supper

Member and spouse or one guest invited.

For the Potluck bring enough for yourself and a little extra. Come enjoy fellowship, & music by Eileen Wotschell.




**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

**DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**CHRISTMAS POT LUCK**

**WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 PM IN THE FAITH ROOM**

IF INTERESTED CALL PAT AT 403-527-1097



**Advent Penitential Services**

**St. Patrick's Parish**

**Wednesday**

**December 11**

**4:00-6:00 PM**

**Holy Family Parish**

**Thursday**

**December 12**


**6:00-8:00 PM**



**DONATE TODAY...**

**accounting@hollyfamilymh.ca**

**E-transfer ONLINE GIVING**





December 14<sup>th</sup> , 2024 ~ Holy Family Parish Hall  
 Breakfast 7:30 am  
 Presentation 8:30 am  
 Theme: The Witness of the Apostolic Fathers  
 Presenter: Dr. Andrew Swafford

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



**Blessing of the Bambinelli**  
 December 14 & 15 Masses  
 Holy Family Parish

On the Third Sunday  
 of Advent children  
 bring Baby Jesus  
 (Bambinelli) from  
 your family Nativity  
 scene to Mass for a  
 blessing.



**CWL Christmas Bake Sale**  
 December 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, Before & After Mass



Baking Donations  
 may be dropped  
 off in the Hall  
 Saturday  
 December 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Noon-2:00pm



**Come out and get your Christmas Goodies!**

**Christmas Breakfast ~ Dec 15**  
**After 8:30 & 10:30 Masses**

**OMELETS, PANCAKES, & SAUSAGES,  
 STRAWBERRIES & WHIPPED CREAM,  
 COFFEE & JUICE**

**\$10. – ADULTS  
 \$5. – UNDER 12, FREE – UNDER 6**

**& THE BEST FELLOWSHIP EVER!**



**#9502 Knights of Columbus Family Christmas Party**

**Monday, December 16, 2024, 6:00pm**

**Holy Family Parish Hall**

**Knights of Columbus & Families**

**Menu – Spaghetti Supper**

**Join us for a fun evening of holiday  
 celebration and fellowship**

**RSVP – December 9, 2024,**

**Pat Ries call or text – 403-458-0442**

**or email – pjries@memlane.com**



**Sacramental Preparation 2024-25**

**Confirmation**

**Thursday Jan 9<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick's Church Hall  
 6:00pm to 7:30pm**

**1st Holy Communion**

**Saturday Jan 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick's Church Hall  
 10:00am to 11:30am OR Saturday Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> at  
 Holy Family Faith Room 1:30pm to 3:00pm**



**Christmas Mass Schedule 2024-25**

**SIMBANG GABI**

**A Filipino Christmas tradition.**

**December 15<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30am**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**Tuesday, Dec. 24 - 5:00pm, & 9:30pm**

**Wednesday, Dec. 25 - 10:00am**

**Thursday, Dec 26 - No Mass**

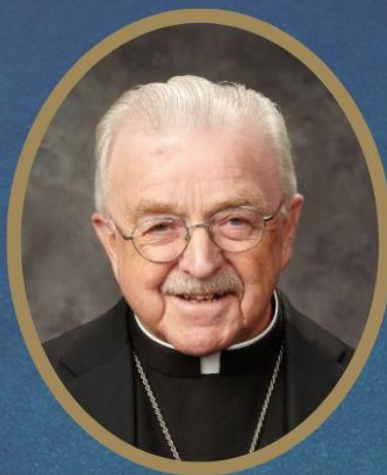
**SOLEMNITY OF MARY**

**Tuesday, Dec. 31 - 5:00pm**

**Wednesday, Jan. 1 - 10:00am**







# The Most Reverend Frederick B. Henry

*The Seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary*

11 April 1943 ✝ 03 December 2024

FUNERAL LITURGIES WILL BE HELD AT  
ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

## ✝ Prayers & Viewing

MONDAY, DEC 9, 2024  
9 AM TO 4 PM

9 am - Reception of the Body  
and Lauds

Noon - Rosary

3 pm - Divine Mercy Chaplet  
and Vespers

## ✝ Funeral Vigil

MONDAY, DEC 9, 2024  
AT 7 PM

## ✝ Funeral Mass

TUESDAY, DEC 10, 2024  
AT 10:30 AM

RITE OF COMMITTAL  
St. Mary's Cemetery, Calgary

RECEPTION  
St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Hall



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
*of Calgary*





## St. Francis Xavier School

Update by Ryan Irving- Principal

St. Francis Xavier School is proud to be part of the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education. We are a kindergarten to grade 6 elementary school that prides itself as being a school that works closely with our families, community supports and our wonderful parishes and pastors. Located at the top of the hill in Crescent Heights, we are a short walk down the hill to St. Patrick's Church where we engage in retreats, school masses and holiday events. This December we are very much looking forward to celebrating, St. Francis Xavier's Feast Day, our Christmas Mass, annual Christmas dinner, Christmas Concert, and Christmas Market with McCoy High School.



**Medicine Hat Catholic  
Board of Education**





## Did you know that Hillcrest Church has a Furniture Ministry?

They will pick-up gently used furniture and other household items to be given to people in their time of need. If you have any of the following that you would like to donate, please **call Hillcrest at 403-526-4010 to arrange for a pickup**. Items most needed are marked with an asterisk\*.

|                       |                  |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| *Toasters             | *Coffee Pots     | *Vacuum Cleaners |
| *Twin & Double Sheets | Electric Kettles | Blankets         |
| Bathroom Towels       | Kitchen Towels   | Microwaves       |
| Mops                  | Lamps            | Dishes           |
| Glasses               | Pots & Pans      | Cutlery          |
| Cooking Utensils      | Coffee Tables    | Side Tables      |
| Couches               | Chairs           | Ottomans         |
| Kitchen Tables        | Dining Chairs    | Dressers         |

What they cannot accept: Reclining Furniture, Televisions, Ripped and Damaged Items, China, Mirrors, China Cabinets & Desks.

We work closely with Hillcrest when we encounter our neighbours in need of furniture and household items.

God bless these hard-working volunteers for the work they do in their Furniture Ministry!

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If you would like to donate to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the most direct way to do this would be to:

- 1) send an e-transfer to [ssvpmedhat@gmail.com](mailto:ssvpmedhat@gmail.com)
- 2) make a cheque out to Society of St. Vincent de Paul (or SSVP) or put cash into an envelope that is clearly marked: SSVP donation.

These may be left at the church office or put into the collection basket at mass.

You will receive a tax receipt if your name and address is given.

Thank you so much for your continued support in both prayers and donations.  
God bless you.





2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

DECEMBER 8, 2024

## PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE LORD

Once St. Francis Xavier said, “Many, many people hereabouts are not becoming Christians for one reason only: there is nobody to make them Christians. Again and again, I have thought of going around the universities of Europe, especially Paris, and everywhere crying out like a madman, riveting the attention of those with more learning than charity: “What a tragedy: how many souls are being shut out of heaven and falling into hell, thanks to you!” I wish they would work as hard at this as they do at their books, and so settle their account with God for their learning and the talents entrusted to them. This thought would certainly stir most of them to meditate on spiritual realities, to listen actively to what God is saying to them. They would forget their own desires, their human affairs, and give themselves over entirely to God’s will and his choice. They would cry out with all their heart: Lord, I am here! What do you want me to do?”

Christianity is supremely a religion of conversion. Everything we say and everything we believe is built upon one fundamental and revolutionary premise: We don’t have to stay the way we are. Our life can be radically changed by God. Conversion is a miracle that happens when the life of God intersects with our human personality. Once God enters the picture, our life will never be the same again. Until then, we may be religious, and we may be very good persons, and we may obey all the rules of the church, but we have not been converted. Conversion is entirely a conviction that long-held prejudices can be overcome, lifetime habits can be broken, and deeply ingrained patterns of sin can be erased over time. Conversion is the certainty that what we were does not determine what we are, and what we are does not determine what we will be. We can be changed, we can be different, our life can move in an entirely new direction. God does not call the qualified, but he qualifies the called. Conversion is a truth and if we take that truth away from Christianity, it ceases to be a supernatural religion. If the possibility of real change is gone, then we have nothing to offer but a set of rules.

The beauty of our preparing the way of the Lord lies in our gratitude and trust rather in the abundance of possession. It always depends on our own choices to choose which way



we want to go and follow. As it is written in the Book of Sirach (15: 14-19) "It was he who created humankind in the beginning, and he left them in the power of their own free choice. If you choose, you can keep the commandments, and to act faithfully is a matter of your own choice. He has placed before you fire and water; stretch out your hand for whichever you choose. Before each person are life and death, and whichever one chooses will be given. For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees everything; his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows every human action".

On this Second Sunday of Advent as we light the second candle which is the symbol of Peace, we are invited to decide which route we want to take? We can prepare ourselves to take the path to conversion or we can stay as we are. Each day is an open invitation for us to choose and decide.

A rich landowner named Carl often rode around his vast estate so he could congratulate himself on his great wealth. One day while riding around his estate on his favorite horse, he saw Hans, an old tenant farmer. Hans was sitting under a tree when Carl rode by.

Hans said, 'I was just thanking God for my food.'

Carl protested, 'If that is all I had to eat, I wouldn't feel like giving thanks.'

Hans replied, 'God has given me everything I need, and I am thankful for it.'

The old farmer added, 'It is strange you should come by today because I had a dream last night. In my dream a voice told me, 'The richest man in the valley will die tonight.' I don't know what it means, but I thought I ought to tell you.'

Carl snorted, 'Dreams are nonsense,' and galloped away, but he could not forget Hans' words: 'The richest man in the valley will die tonight.' He was obviously the richest man in the valley, so he invited his doctor to his house that evening. Carl told the doctor what Hans had said. After a thorough examination, the doctor told the wealthy landowner, 'Carl, you are as strong and healthy as a horse. There is no way you are going to die tonight.'

Nevertheless, for assurance, the doctor stayed with Carl, and they played cards through the night. The doctor left the next morning and Carl apologized for becoming so upset over the old man's dream. At about nine o'clock, a messenger arrived at Carl's door.

'What is it?' Carl demanded.

The messenger explained, 'It's about old Hans. He died last night in his sleep.'

The Prophet Ezekiel was given the task to help people to convert from their sinful ways and come back to the Lord; "But if the wicked turn away from all their sins that they have committed and keep all my statutes and do what is lawful and right, they shall surely live; they shall not die. None of the transgressions that they have committed shall be remembered against them; for the righteousness that they have done they shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, says the Lord God, and not rather that they should turn from their ways and live? But when the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity and do the same abominable things that the wicked do, shall they live? None of the righteous deeds that they have done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which they are guilty and the sin they have committed, they shall die".

St. James also helps us to play the real role of a disciples by bringing people back to the Lord "My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins".



The Holy Bible is full of conversion stories but especially the New Testament. Most of Jesus's disciples were fishermen, but their lives were changed the day they met him. In the Acts of the Apostles we read about the conversion story of Saul who later was called Paul. His conversion changed the face of Christianity, and he became the Apostle of the Gentiles. I strongly believe that the season of Advent not only prepare us to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, but it also opens for us the ways to work on our conversion. Conversion does bring inner peace and inner peace leads us to make Jesus the center of our lives.

St. Bernard reminds everyone of us that "God's Word will come to us" and we must prepare our ways to welcome him. He continues to explain "We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible. In the first coming he was seen on earth, dwelling among men; he himself testifies that they saw him and hated him. In the final coming all flesh will see the salvation of our God, and they will look on him whom they pierced. The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves, and they are saved. In his first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming he comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and majesty. Because this coming lies between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the first coming to the last. In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last, he will appear as our life; in this middle coming, he is our rest and consolation".

Further he explains "In case someone should think that what we say about this middle coming is sheer invention, listen to what our Lord himself says: If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. There is another passage of Scripture which reads: He who fears God will do good, but something further has been said about the one who loves, that is, that he will keep God's word. Where is God's word to be kept? Obviously in the heart, as the prophet says: I have hidden your words in my heart, so that I may not sin against you. Keep God's word in this way. Let it enter into your very being, let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. Feed on goodness, and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away. Fill your soul with richness and strength. If you keep the word of God in this way, it will also keep you. The Son and the Father will come to you. The great Prophet who will build the new Jerusalem will come, the one who makes all things new. This coming will fulfill what is written: As we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, we shall also bear the likeness of the heavenly man. Just as Adam's sin spread through all mankind and took hold of all, so Christ, who created and redeemed all, will glorify all, once he takes possession of all".

The Prophet Baruch in the First Reading encourages everyone to experience the beauty of the glory of God "Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, of Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory of God". He is prophesying during the time when people are suffering and missing Jerusalem. They are sad because the beauty of Jerusalem is being stolen away from them and people are in a state of mourning. He is encouraging people to choose the path of conversion and believe that God the Almighty Father is going to be with them "For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous,



Peace, Godly Glory". If we choose the path of conversion and trust in the Lord, then there will be humility and peace. He does remind us that once the salvation will come everything is going to be safe for Israel "For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him". The preparation for the conversion of our hearts is very important because we must have pure and blameless hearts to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord. We must take care of ourselves and "be on guard and alert" as we heard from last Sunday's Gospel reading because "the devil is always looking like a roaring lion to eat someone" as St. Peter says. Here is a story by an unknown author to remind us that we must not be under Satan's yoke.

Satan called a worldwide convention of demons. In his opening address he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We can't even keep them from forming an intimate relationship with their Savior. Once they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken. So let them go to their churches; let them have their covered dish dinners, but steal their time, so they don't have time to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. This is what I want you to do," said the devil: "Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!"

"How shall we do this?" his demons shouted. "Keep them busy in the nonessentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," he answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow. Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6-7 days each week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their families fragment, soon their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work!"

"Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still, small voice. Entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive. To keep the TV, VCR, CDs and their PCs going constantly in their homes and see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly. This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ. Fill the coffee tables with magazines and newspapers. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogs, sweepstakes, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services and false hopes."

"Give them Santa Claus to distract them from teaching their children the real meaning of Christmas. Give them an Easter bunny so they won't talk about his resurrection and power over sin and death. Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted. Keep them too busy to go out in nature and reflect on God's creation. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, plays, concerts, and movies instead. Keep them busy, busy, busy!"

"And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences. Crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Jesus. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause. It will work! It will work!"

It was quite a plan! The demons went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busier and more rushed, going here and there, having little time for their God or their families and friends. Having no time to tell others about the power of



Jesus to change lives. I guess the question is, has the devil been successful at his scheme? You be the judge!

Does "busy" mean: B-eing U-nder S-atan's Y-oke?

In the Second Reading St. Paul is thanking the Philippians for their good deeds and also helping other people to prepare for the day of the Lord "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of the Lord Jesus". I think this 2nd Sunday of Advent not only invites us to conversion but encourages us to help other people to convert their lives and come to follow Jesus. What an amazing appreciation from St. Paul for people to experience Jesus's love. St. Bernard reflecting on the coming of Jesus says "We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible. In the first coming he was seen on earth, dwelling among men; he himself testifies that they saw him and hated him. In the final coming all flesh will see the salvation of our God, and they will look on him whom they pierced. The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves, and they are saved. In his first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming he comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and majesty".

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Further he adds "Keep God's word in this way. Let it enter into your very being, let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. Feed on goodness, and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away. Fill your soul with richness and strength. If you keep the word of God in this way, it will also keep you. The Son with the Father will come to you. The great Prophet who will build the new Jerusalem will come, the one who makes all things new. This coming will fulfill what is written: As we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, we shall also bear the likeness of the heavenly man. Just as Adam's sin spread through all mankind and took hold of all, so Christ, who created and redeemed all, will glorify all, once he takes possession of all".

The choice to choose the path of conversion, helps us not only to see the needs of other people but also it helps us to see our relationship with him who died on the Cross. The following story I would say will help us to see our role as Christians to walk with the Lord and only listen to him rather than be distracted by others' opinions.

There was once a bunch of tiny frogs, who arranged a running competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower. A big crowd gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants. The race began... No one in the crowd really

believed that the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. They shouted, "Oh, way too difficult!!! They will NEVER make it to the top" and "Not a chance. The tower is too high". The tiny frogs began collapsing, one by one except for those who, in a fresh tempo, were climbing higher and higher.... The crowd continued to yell, "It's too difficult! No one will make it!" More tiny frogs got tired and gave up... But one continued higher and higher. This one wouldn't give up! And he reached the top. Everyone wanted to know how this one frog managed such a great feat. His secret? This little frog was deaf!! The wisdom of this story is:

Ignore the pessimism of others. It can take your dreams from you. Stay positive.

The Gospel of this Sunday places us in the school of John the Baptist, who preached "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins". Perhaps we ask ourselves, "Why do we have to convert? Conversion is about an atheist who becomes a believer or a sinner who becomes just. But we don't need it. We are already Christians. So, we are okay". But this isn't true. In thinking like this, we don't realize that it is precisely because of this presumption that we are Christians, that everyone is good, that we're okay that we must convert: from the supposition that, all things considered, things are fine as they are, and we don't need any kind of conversion.

But let us ask ourselves: is it true that in the various situations and circumstances of life, within us we have the same feelings that Jesus has? Is it true that we feel as Christ feels? For example, when we suffer some wrongdoing or some insult, do we manage to react without animosity and to forgive from the heart those who apologize to us? How difficult it is to forgive! How difficult! "We're going to pay for this" that phrase comes from inside! When we are called to share joys or sorrows, do we know how to sincerely weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice? When we should express our faith, do we know how to do it with courage and simplicity, without being ashamed of the Gospel? Thus, we can ask ourselves so many questions. We're not all right. We must always convert and have the sentiments that Jesus had. Why then conversion is important for us even though we are already baptized? We almost all drive our cars, and we follow the traffic rules but why do we really need them? Don't we know speed limits, school zones, stop, yield, merge, do not enter, no parking and construction zone signs? We all know but these signs are everyday reminders to be take care of our driving habits. So it is the same with our preparation for conversion. Everyday we need to remind ourselves and grow strong in our relationship with the Lord.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis says "The voice of the Baptist still cries in the deserts of humanity today, which are - what are today's deserts? — closed minds and hardened hearts. And his voice causes us to ask ourselves if we are actually following the right path, living a life according to the Gospel. Today, as then, he admonishes us with the words of the Prophet Isaiah: "Prepare the way of the Lord!". It is a pressing invitation to open one's heart and receive the salvation that God offers ceaselessly, almost obstinately, because he wants us all to be free from the slavery of sin. But the text of the prophet amplifies this voice, portending that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God". And salvation is offered to every man, and every people, without exclusion, to each one of us. None of us can say, "I'm a saint; I'm perfect; I'm already saved". No. We must always accept this offer of salvation. This is the reason for the season of Advent: to go farther on this



journey of salvation, this path that Jesus taught us. God wants all of mankind to be saved through Jesus, the one mediator (1 Tim 2:4-6)".

Therefore, each one of us is called to make Jesus known to those who do not yet know him. But this is not to proselytize. No, it is to open a door. "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Cor 9:16), St Paul declared. If Our Lord Jesus has changed our lives, and he changes it every time we go to him, how can we not feel the passion to make him known to those we encounter at work, at school, in our apartment building, in the hospital, in meeting places? If we look around us, we find people who would be willing to begin — or begin again — a journey of faith where they can encounter Christians in love with Jesus. I leave we this question: "Am I truly in love with Jesus? Am I convinced that Jesus offers me and gives me salvation?"

Do we prepare our way to welcome him?



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

# DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

## Second Sunday of Advent



### Rest in peace, Bishop Henry

It is with profound sadness that we announce the death of the Most Reverend Frederick Bernard Henry, the Seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary. He passed away peacefully at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at the Rockyview General Hospital. He was 81 years of age.

We invite you to join us in prayers for The Most Reverend Frederick B. Henry, the Seventh Bishop of Calgary. Funeral liturgies will take place at St. Mary's Cathedral (219 18 Ave SW, Calgary) as follows:

- Monday, December 9, 2024  
Public Visitation: 9 AM to 4 PM  
Funeral Vigil: 7 PM
- Tuesday, December 10, 2024  
Funeral Mass: 10:30 AM



Rite of Committal: St. Mary's  
Cemetery, Calgary  
Reception: St. Mary's Cathedral  
Parish Hall

### Mission Mexico Sunday

Join us in supporting Mission Mexico Day on Dec 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Mission Mexico Sunday on Dec 15 in the parishes. These special days remind us of our call to walk in solidarity with marginalized communities in southern Mexico, providing vital support for education, healthcare, and sustainable development. There will be a Second Collection on the Third Sunday of Advent (Dec. 14/15) for Mission Mexico.

### Diaconal Ordination of Peter An

Join us as we celebrate with great joy the Ordination of Peter An to the Transitional Diaconate by the Most Reverend William T. McGrattan, Bishop of Calgary. When: Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024 at 5 pm, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Calgary. All are welcome.

**Advent: Joy & Anticipation -**  
[catholiccyyc.ca/Advent](https://catholiccyyc.ca/Advent)

The Diocesan Advent resources page is now online! Find Advent events (retreats, missions, events) in our Diocese, prayers and traditions, inspiring books, music and movies, and activities for children. Newly added: Simbang

Gabi schedules, and a list of Advent Penitential Services. Visit [catholiccyyc.ca/advent](https://catholiccyyc.ca/advent)

### SJCS Nine Lessons & Carols

The tradition continues! Join the four beautiful choirs of St. John Choir Schola for Nine Lessons and Carols. When: Sun, Dec 15, 7:30 pm, St. Mary's Cathedral.

### Christmas Concerts & Carols

- **Carols & Cocoa at St. Joseph's -** Fri, Dec 13, at 6:30 pm, St. Joseph's, Calgary - Join us for a cozy, festive evening! Enjoy carols, fellowship, and cheers over some cookies & cocoa!
- **Christmas Concert with Deborah Nyack, Harpist -** Sun, Dec 22 at 7:30 pm, Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Rockies; Sat, Dec 23 at 7:30 pm, St. Mary's Banff - Enjoy a night of timeless Christmas carols and festive melodies.

### Advent Family Workshop: Our Family Advent Journey

Join us on Wed, Dec 11 at 6:30 pm, for a Zoom workshop to make Advent a joyful, faith-filled journey closer to Christ through prayer, scripture, and hands-on activities. Space is limited. Call Mara at 403-218-5521 to get the Zoom link.

## Advent Taizé Prayers

Enter Advent through meditative Taizé prayer and chants: Fri, Dec 13, 7:45 pm to 9 pm: St. Luke's Advent Taize Prayer Service, Calgary

## Become a Catechist in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program (3–6 years)

Become a catechist in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program for children aged 3–6 and help nurture their relationship with God through hands-on, retreat-style faith formation. Training Course will be offered at Ascension Catholic Parish, Calgary, on February 13–18 (Part A) and July 14–19 (Part B), 2025. Register by January 10, 2025, at [cgsac.ca/courses-1](https://cgsac.ca/courses-1). For more info, contact Katy - 403-370-9487.

## 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:

- [St. Anthony's, Calgary](#) - Fri, Dec 6 at 3 pm to Sun, Dec 8 at 7 am (Chapel)
- [St. Mary's Cathedral](#) - Thu, Jan 2 at 5 pm (Mass) to Sat, Jan 4 at 9 am (Mass)

## Opening of the Jubilee Year

Join Bishop McGrattan for the Opening Mass of the Jubilee Year! When: Sunday, Dec. 29 at Noon, at St. Mary's Cathedral. All are welcome as we begin this special Jubilee year, "*Pilgrims of Hope*."

## Airdrie Dream Vacation Raffle

Back for the 8th year is the Airdrie Dream Vacation raffle sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Your chance to win many amazing prizes! Tickets at [airdriedreamvacation.ca](https://airdriedreamvacation.ca).

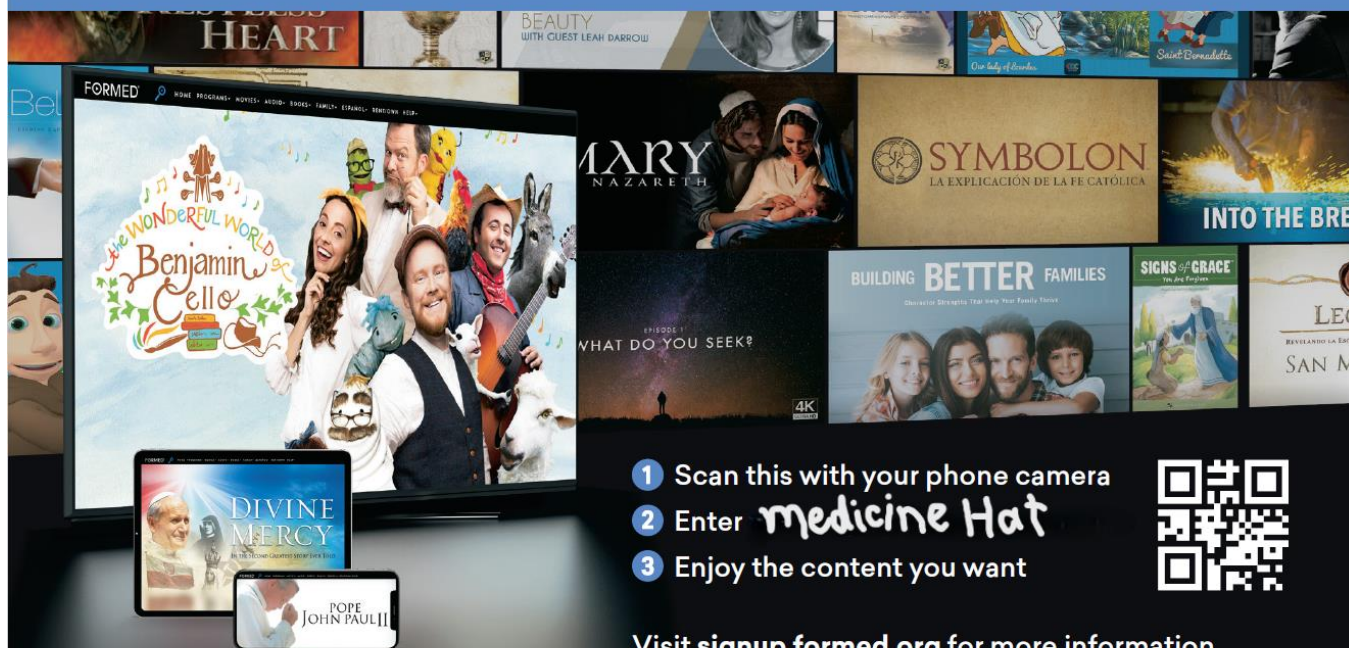
## Need the Anointing of the Sick while in a Calgary Hospital?

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.



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An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  Ignatius press

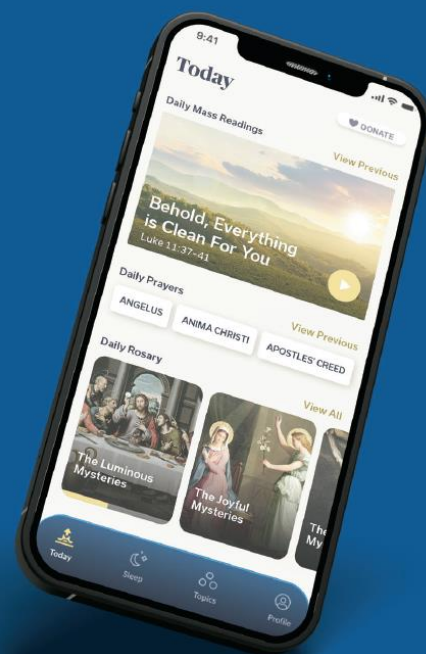
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An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

## **Joe McKinnon Council #9502**

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

| <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

Second Sunday of Advent  
December 8th, 2024



In Advent we hear about Saint John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, who prepared the way for Jesus' coming. He preached to the people, telling them to repent, and baptized them.

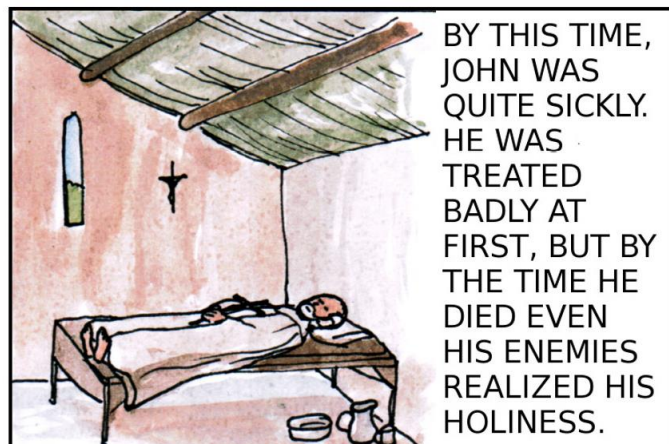
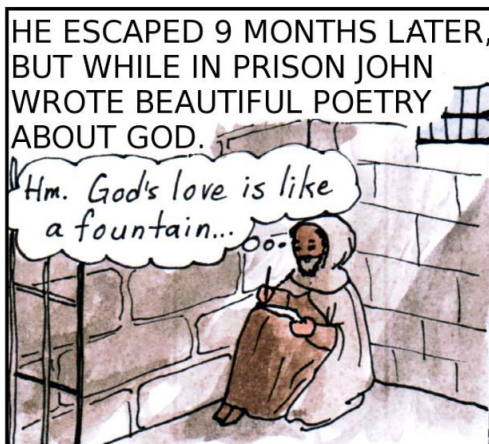
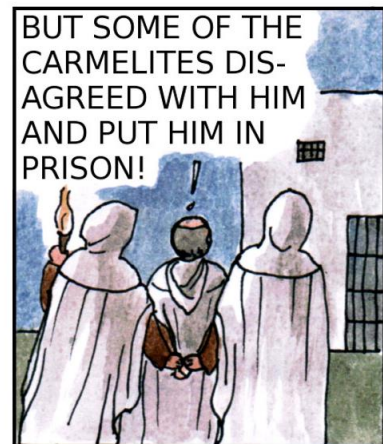
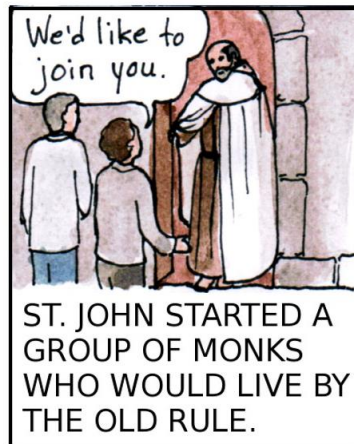
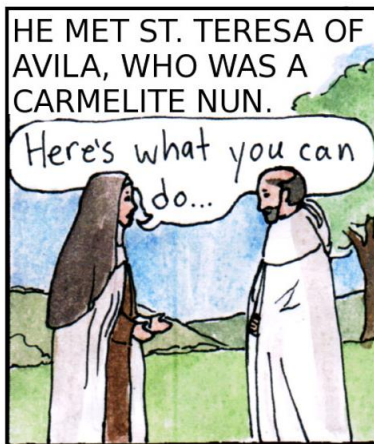
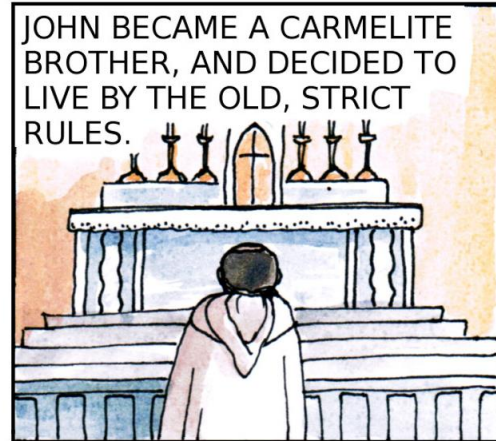
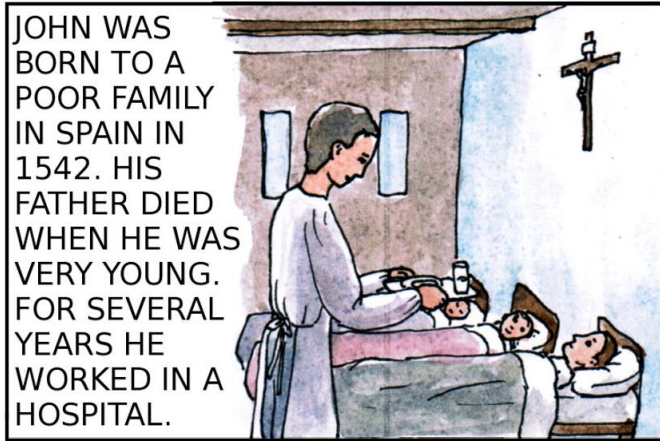
When Jesus came Saint John told the people to follow Jesus because He was the Messiah.

Can you find your way from Saint John to Jesus?



# Saint John of the Cross

## December 14

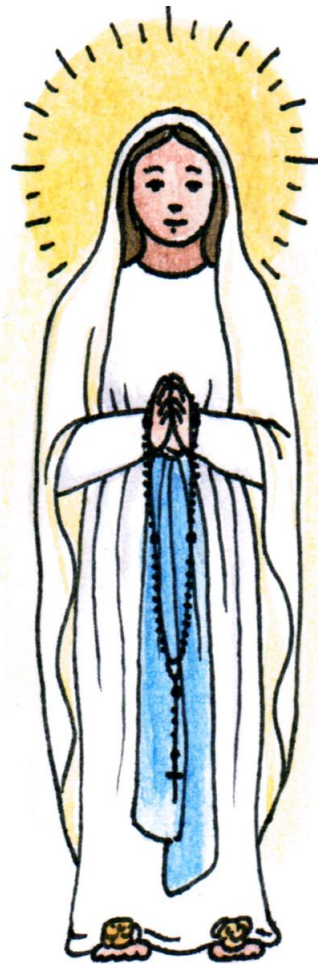


TODAY SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS WRITINGS. HE TAUGHT THAT WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO BE PERFECTLY HAPPY HERE ON EARTH BECAUSE WE ARE MADE FOR GOD IN HEAVEN. NEXT TIME YOU FEEL UNHAPPY, REMEMBER THAT PERFECT HAPPINESS IS WAITING FOR YOU IN HEAVEN!



# *Immaculate Conception Word-Find*

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

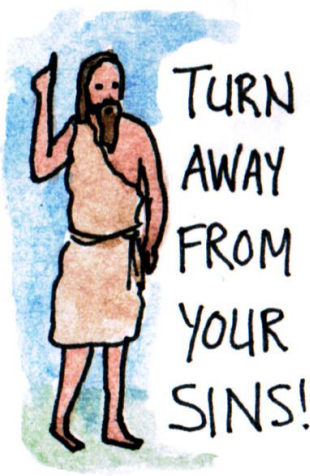


*See if you can find the words that  
are written in CAPITALS.*

*The leftover letters spell the name of a special  
prayer we can say to Mary on her feast day.*

This year, December 9th is the feast day of the  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. That is a name  
for MARY that means that GOD made her  
WITHOUT SIN because he had CHOSEN her to  
be the MOTHER of HIS SON. Her SOUL was  
FREE from ORIGINAL sin even before she was  
BORN. All her life she KEPT her HEART  
PURE and without the STAIN of sin. Mary  
NEVER OFFENDED God, and with his  
GRACE, she spent her whole life  
LOVING JESUS.

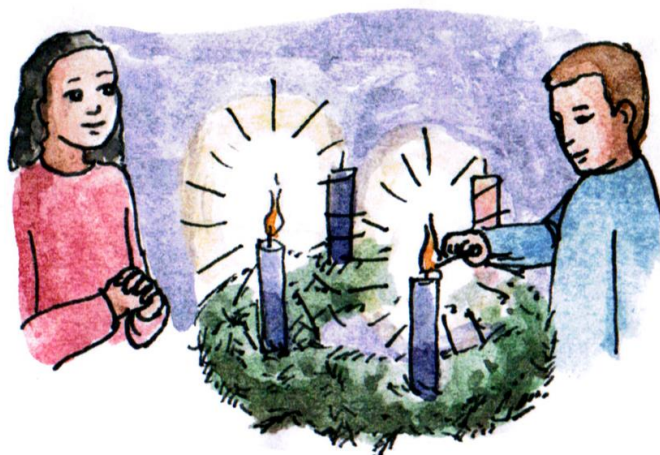
# We Joyfully Wait for Jesus



Advent is a time of joy, when we happily look forward to the coming of Jesus. Today's Gospel reading tells about how Saint John the Baptist went around telling everyone to repent and prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

An Advent wreath is a symbol of the coming of Jesus, our Light, into the world. It has three purple candles and one pink candle. One candle is lit on the first week of Advent, and one more is added every week until Christmas. Every week it gets a bit brighter because we are getting closer to Jesus' coming at Christmas.

The purple candles stand for repentance- being sorry and making up for our sins. The pink candle represents joy. It is lit on the third week of Advent because we rejoice that the waiting is half over.







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.**