



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YR. C SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 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 Reading ~ Luke 3:10-18

***John the Baptist teaches the path of
repentance and announces Christ.***

✠ Masses & Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 14

5:00pm – Don Zahn ✠

Sunday, December 15

8:30am – Holy Family Parish

10:30am – Lambert Streifel ✠

6:00pm – Elizabeth & Adam Schneider ✠

Monday, December 16

9:00am – Nick & Rosina Mucciarone ✠

Tuesday, December 17

9:00am – Bill Douglas ✠

Wednesday, December 18

7:00am – Michael David Blanchette

Thursday, December 19

9:00am – Jennifer Wrzosek ✠

Friday, December 20

9:00am – Mr. & Mrs. Fritz

SIMBANG GABI

DECEMBER 15-23 5:30 AM

Joy... 3rd Sunday of Advent

OPERATING FINANCES

OCTOBER 1-31, 2024

Operating Budget 2024	\$ 60,990
General Envelope Collection	\$ 53,037
Loose Collections	\$ 3,636
Future Development	\$ 3,267
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ 4,867
\$ 64,807 - Budget Vs Actual	\$ 3,817

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 3,637
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 5,807
World Mission	\$ 155
Clergy Retirement	\$ 212
Mission Mexico	\$ 182
CARO	\$ 310
Seminary Fund	\$ 67
Needs of CDN Church	\$ 55

*Thank You
for your Generous Contributions*

Average Weekly Attendance	876
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TOGETHER
in ACTION

2024

2024 Goal - \$70,938

Donations to date -

\$72,964

WE DID IT!!!

THANK YOU!!!!!!



YOU MATTER.
YOU BELONG.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18A.

ISAIAH 12:2-3, 4, 5-6.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7.

LUKE 3:10-18.

EXHORTING AND EXPECTING.

Even in these troubled times, we are urged to rejoice this day, this week, this season. The question posed by nearly everyone to John the Baptist – What should we do? – is also our question. Saint Paul reminds us that the Lord is near. While we actively wait for Jesus Christ to come again, we are told to be merciful and just.

- † What in my closet can be given to clothe someone in need?
- † What actions in my job or my retirement can be fairer and more just?
- † What words from my mouth will speak only truth?



Special Collections

DECEMBER

Future Development

Together in Action

Society of

St. Vincent de Paul

December 12, 2024

Mission Mexico

December 25, 2024

Christmas Offering

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A Filipino Christmas Tradition

Simbang Gabi is a novena of Masses celebrated at dawn, when the roosters crow.

December 15th
to the 23rd at 5:30 AM

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DONATE TODAY...

accounting@holymfamilymh.ca

e-transfer
ONLINE GIVING



CWL Christmas Bake Sale

December 14th & 15th, Before & After Mass



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



Come out and get your Christmas Goodies!



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.

#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



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!



December 21st, 2024 ~ Holy Family Parish Hall

Breakfast 7:30 am

Presentation 8:30 am

Theme: St. Augustine, A Saint for our Time

Presenter: Dr. Andrew Swafford

TMIY

THAT MAN IS YOU!

BECOMING A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART



Sacramental Preparation 2024-25

Confirmation

Thursday Jan 9th at St. Patrick's Church Hall

6:00pm to 7:30pm

1st Holy Communion

Saturday Jan 11th at St. Patrick's Church Hall

10:00am to 11:30am OR Saturday Jan. 11th at

Holy Family Faith Room 1:30pm to 3:00pm



Envelopes 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.

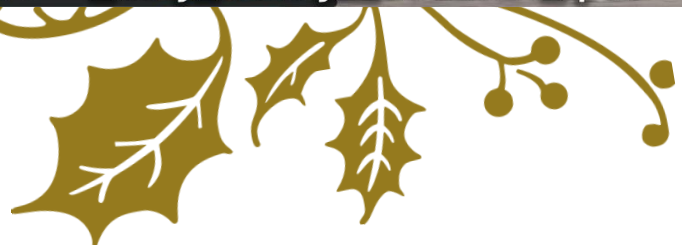


WE'RE

HIRING

Bookkeeper

https://www.catholiccyyc.ca/uploads/6/5/5/7/65570685/bookkeeper_holy_family_dec2024_.pdf





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USE WITH



Faithfully
FAITH. LIVED. FULLY.

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

Vincentian Corner



As we journey through Advent preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we ponder the many gifts we have been given. We are indeed blessed.

The Vincentians take this opportunity to thank you for your generous support – your prayers and financial contributions are so important, allowing us to continue to help our neighbours in need within our community. We are grateful to all of you.

May God bless you with health, happiness, and peace during this Christmas season and always.

'Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.' Hebrews 13: 16

Christmas Mass Schedule 2024-25

SIMBANG GABI A Filipino Christmas tradition.

December 15th to 23rd at 5:30am
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Tuesday, Dec. 24 – Nativity Pageant - 4:30pm

Masses - 5:00pm, & 9:30pm

Wednesday, Dec. 25 - 10:00am

Thursday, Dec 26 - No Mass

Office Closed Dec 23 – Jan 2

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Tuesday, Dec. 31 - 5:00pm

Wednesday, Jan. 1 - 10:00am

Incense at all Christmas & New Years Masses



She Shall Be Called Woman

A PROGRAM FOR ALL WOMEN BY
Paradise Dei

SEASON TWO TEN VIRTUES of MARY

The Blessed Mother is our perfect example of what it is to be a woman in love with the Lord. Saint Louis de Montfort defined ten virtues that Mary exhibited that define her life. These virtues are challenging, but they are not impossible. This season will shed light on each of these virtues while offering a roadmap to holiness. Each session provides a practical framework so you can deepen your prayer life, improve your relationships, and enrich your family life.



SARAH SWAFFORD
Speaker & Founder
Emotional Virtue Ministries



ALICIA HERNON
Co-founder
Mossy 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 ANGELIC SWEETNESS
KATIE HARTFIEL

2 BLIND OBEDIENCE
LISA COTTER

3 DIVINE WISDOM
SR. ALEXIA ZALDIVAR

4 ARDENT CHARITY
SARAH SWAFFORD

**5 PROFOUND HUMILITY &
UNIVERSAL MORTIFICATION**
JORDAN LANGDON

6 LIVELY FAITH
MARI PABLO

7 SURPASSING PURITY
SR. ALEXIA ZALDIVAR

8 HEROIC PATIENCE
ALICIA HERNON

9 UNCEASING PRAYER
KATIE HARTFIEL



PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Thursday Evenings
Beginning January 9th, 2025
In the Hall

SCHEDULE:

6:15 pm Fellowship
6:45 pm Presentation
7:15 pm Small Group
7:45 pm Dismissal

REGISTRATION:

First time registrants,
register upon entry on
January 9th or call
Maria @ 403 526 6104 and leave
a message.



SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN

A PROGRAM FOR ALL WOMEN BY
PARADISE DEI



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!

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
- 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.



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

DECEMBER 15, 2024

JOY COMES FROM THE LORD

For the last two Sundays we have lit candles of Hope & Peace reminding ourselves that once we hope in the Lord, the peace will come. These last weeks have brought to the point of realization that without God we can not have peace neither can we rejoice in him. As we continue our Advent journey, this week we light the third candle, a symbol of Joy and that's why this Sunday's liturgy opens with "Gaudete in Domino semper" "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near". This Sunday is called "Gaudete Sunday".

Today also we start second phase of Advent season which will help us to reflect on the first coming of Jesus through the prophecies of the old and also, we will be reflecting "O Antiphons". Let's reflect why this Sunday is called "Gaudete Sunday"? Why we have to rejoice so early when Christmas is two weeks away? Someone described the Gaudete Sunday as follows: "Nature's annual cycle is characterized by two phenomena, light and life. Out of the darkness of night comes light; out of death comes life. The transition from night to light characterizes the winter season; the transition from death to life is proper to summertime. The holy year of the Church is likewise divided into two phases which have similar characteristics." Similar way we are reminded by the Sacred Scriptures that we must rejoice in the Lord because our Salvation has come near. Someone asked St. Mother Teresa what the secret of her joy is in serving the poor and marginalized people and her answer stunned the world "Joy is prayer -- joy is strength -- joy is love -- joy is a net of love. . . A joyful heart is the normal result of a heart burning with love . . . loving as He loves, helping as He helps, giving as He gives, serving as He serves, rescuing as He rescues, being with Him twenty-four hours, touching Him in His distressing disguise."

St. Augustine says "God established a time for his promises and a time for their fulfillment. The time for promises was in the time of the prophets, until John the Baptist; from John

until the end is the time of fulfillment. God, who is faithful, put himself in our debt, not by receiving anything but by promising so much. A promise was not sufficient for him; he chose to commit himself in writing as well, as it were making a contract of his promises. He wanted us to be able to see the way in which his promises were redeemed when he began to discharge them. And so, the time of the prophets was, as we have often said, the foretelling of the promises. He promised eternal salvation, everlasting happiness with the angels, an immortal inheritance, endless glory, the joyful vision of his face, his holy dwelling in heaven, and after resurrection from the dead no further fear of dying. This is as it were his final promise, the goal of all our striving. When we reach it, we shall ask for nothing more. But as to the way in which we are to arrive at our final goal, he has revealed this also, by promise and prophecy. He has promised men divinity, mortals, immortality, sinners, justification, and the poor rising to glory. But, brethren, because God's promises seemed impossible to men—equality with the angels in exchange for mortality, corruption, poverty, weakness, dust and ashes—God not only made a written contract with men, to win their belief but also established a mediator of his good faith, not a prince or angel or archangel, but his only Son. He wanted, through his Son, to show us and give us the way he would lead us to the goal he has promised.

It was not enough for God to make his Son our guide to the way; he made him the way itself, that you might travel with him as leader, and by him as the way.

Therefore, the only Son of God was to come among men, to take the nature of men, and in this nature be born as a man. He was to die, to rise again, to ascend into heaven, to sit at the right hand of the Father, and to fulfill his promises among the nations, and after that to come again, to exact now what he had asked for before, to separate those deserving his anger from those deserving his mercy, to execute his threats against the wicked, and to reward the just as he had promised. All this had therefore to be prophesied, foretold, and impressed on us as an event in the future, in order that we might wait for it in faith, not find it a sudden and dreadful reality”.

I believe we can not rejoice in the Lord unless and until we share that joy with other people. We need to create a circle of joy to bring everyone closer to the Lord. Our First Sunday of Advent was a gift sharing Sunday and looking at people who were bringing gifts, it made me to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas filled with joy. However, that joy is incomplete without hope and peace because hope comes from the Lord which never dies, and peace makes seeks the presence of the Lord during this season of Advent. How important the joy is, following story will help?

One day, a countryman knocked hard on a monastery door. When the monk tending the gates opened, he was given a magnificent bunch of grapes.

“Brother, these are the finest my vineyard has produced. I’ve come to bear them as a gift.”

“Thank you! I will take them to the Abbot immediately, he’ll be delighted with this offering.”

“No! I brought them for you.”

“For me?” The monk blushed, for he didn’t think he deserved such a fine gift of that nature.

“Yes!” insisted the man. “For whenever I knock on the door, it is you opens it. When I needed help because the crop was destroyed by drought, you gave me a piece of bread and a cup of wine every day. I hope this bunch of grapes will bring you a little of the sun’s love, the rain’s beauty and the miracle of God, for it is he made it grow so fine.”

The monk held the grapes and spent the entire morning admiring them: they really were beautiful. He decided to deliver the gift to the Abbot, who had always encouraged him with words of wisdom. The Abbot was very pleased with the grapes, but he recalled that there was a sick brother in the monastery and thought: “I’ll give him the grapes. Who knows, they may bring some joy to his life.” And that is what he did. But the grapes didn’t stay in the sick monk’s room for long, for he reflected:

“The cook has looked after me for so long, feeding me only the best meals. I’m sure he will enjoy these.” When the cook appeared at lunch, to bring him his meal, he presented him with the grapes:

“They’re for you,” said the sick monk. “Since you are always coming into contact with that which nature produces, you will know what to do with this work of God.”

The cook was amazed at the beauty of the grapes and showed his assistant how perfect they were. So perfect, he thought to himself, that no one would appreciate them more than the sexton; since he was responsible for the Holy Sacrament, and many at the monastery considered him a holy man, he would be best qualified to value this marvel of nature. The sexton, in turn, gave the grapes as a gift to the youngest novice, that he might understand that the work of God is in the smallest details of Creation. When the novice received them, his heart was filled with the Glory of the Lord, for he had never seen such beautiful grapes. Just then, he remembered the first time he came to the monastery, and of the person who had opened the gates for him; it was that gesture which allowed him to be among this community of people who knew how to value the wonders of life. And so, just before nightfall, he took the grapes to the monk at the gates. “Eat and enjoy them,” he said. “For you spend most of your time alone here, and these grapes will make you very happy.”

The joy brings love and love made God to take human shape to dwell among us. St. Peter Chrysologus reflecting on that mystery of love said “When God saw the world falling to ruin because of fear, he immediately acted to call it back to himself with love. He invited it by his grace, preserved it by his love, and embraced it with compassion. When the earth had become hardened in evil, God sent the flood both to punish and to release it. He called Noah to be the father of a new era, urged him with kind words, and showed that

he trusted him; he gave him fatherly instruction about the present calamity, and through his grace consoled him with hope for the future. But God did not merely issue commands; rather with Noah sharing the work, he filled the ark with the future seeds of the whole world. The sense of loving fellowship thus engendered removed servile fear, and a mutual love could continue to preserve what shared labor had affected”.

Further he says “God called Abraham out of the heathen world, symbolically lengthened his name, and made him the father of all believers. God walked with him on his journeys, protected him in foreign lands, enriched him with earthly possessions, and honored him with victories. He made a covenant with him, saved him from harm, accepted his hospitality, and astonished him by giving him the offspring he had despaired of. Favored with so many graces and drawn by such great sweetness of divine love, Abraham was to learn to love God rather than fear him and love rather than fear was to inspire his worship”.

Today we are given a personality from the Old Testament to walk with, Prophet Zephaniah who proclaims the message of joy his people; “Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!” He is among twelve minor prophets who encourages people to trust in the Lord. Do we help people to experience the joy of the Lord?

Here is the story of a homeless man by an unknown author to remind ourselves that Jesus became flesh so that we may have joy in our lives.

The parking lot filled rapidly on Sunday morning as members of the large church congregation filed into church. As usually happens in a church that size, each member had developed a certain comfort zone - a block of space within those four church walls that became theirs after the second or third sitting. It was as much a part of their church experience as the recliner was to the television at home. Some of the older members had been sitting in the same row on the same side for several decades. A team of oxen could not have moved them to the opposite side of the church.

One morning a stranger stood at the edge of the parking lot near a dumpster. As families parked cars and piled out, they noticed him rummaging through the trash. "Oh no! I don't believe it," whispered a lady to her husband. "That's all we need -- a bunch of homeless people milling around here." One worried little girl tugged on her dad's sleeve. "But Daddy..." Daddy was busy sizing up the bearded stranger, whose baggy, outdated trousers and faded flannel shirt had dusted too many park benches. "Don't stare at him, honey," he whispered, and hurried her inside. Soft music filled the high-ceiling sanctuary as churchgoers settled into their usual spots. The choir sang an opening chorus, "In His presence there is comfort ... in His presence there is peace..."

Sunlight suddenly flooded the center aisle. The double doors swung open and the homeless man, sloppy and stooped, headed toward the front. "Oh no, it's him!" somebody muttered. "What does he think he's doing, anyway?" snapped an incredulous usher.

The stranger set his bagful of dumpster treasures on the very first pew which had been upholstered in an expensive soft teal fabric just three months ago. The music stopped. And before anyone had a chance to react, he ambled up the stairs and stood behind the fine, handcrafted oak podium, where he faced a wide-eyed congregation. The disheveled stranger spoke haltingly at first, in a low, clear voice. Unbuttoning and removing his top layer of clothing, he described Jesus, and the love He has for all people. "Jesus possesses a sensitivity and love that far surpasses what any of us deserves." Stepping out of the baggy old trousers, the stranger went on to describe a forgiveness that is available to each one of us...without strings attached.

"Unconditionally He loves us. Unconditionally He gave His very life for us. Unconditionally and forever, we can have the peace and assurance that no matter who we are, where we've come from, or how badly we may have mistreated others or ourselves, there is hope." "In Jesus, there is always hope." "You see, my friends, it is never too late to change," the man continued. "He is the Author of change, and the Provider of forgiveness. He came to bring new meaning to 'life'." Men and women squirmed as reality hit them like an electrical current. The stranger tugged at his knotted gray beard and removed it. "I'm here to tell you that we are loved with a love far beyond human understanding, a love that enables us to accept and love others in return." Then tenderly he added, "Let's pray together." That wise pastor - under the guise of a homeless "nobody" - did not preach a sermon that day, but every person left with plenty to think about.

St. Peter continue to help us to understand the mystery of his Incarnation "In all the events we have recalled, the flame of divine love enkindled human hearts, and its intoxication overflowed into men's senses. Wounded by love, they longed to look upon God with their bodily eyes. Yet how could our narrow human vision apprehend God, whom the whole world cannot contain? But the law of love is not concerned with what will be, what ought to be, what can be. Love does not reflect; it is unreasonable and knows no moderation. Love refuses to be consoled when its goal proves impossible, despises all hindrances to the attainment of its object. Love destroys the lover if he cannot obtain what he loves; love follows its own promptings and does not think of right and wrong. Love inflames desire which impels it toward things that are forbidden. But why continue? It is intolerable for love not to see the object of its longing. That is why whatever reward they merited was nothing to the saints if they could not see the Lord. A love that desires to see God may not have reasonableness on its side, but it is the evidence of filial love. It gave Moses the temerity to say: If I have found favor in your eyes, show me your face. It inspired the psalmist to make the same prayer: Show me your face. Even the pagans made their images for this purpose: they wanted actually to see what they mistakenly revered".

The season of Advent and Christmas encourages everyone to share joy and encourage everyone. Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was

allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation.

St. Paul through the Second Reading is doing the same to encourage us to believe and rejoice in the Lord. As days are drawing near to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord, the spirit of joy is growing tremendously, reminding us to rejoice in him "who became flesh and dwelled among us". He exhorts us to have no anxiety, to have no despair about anything, but rather, in every circumstance, to make our requests, our needs, our worries known to God "by prayer and supplication". The awareness that we can always turn to the Lord with our difficulties, and that he never rejects our invocations, is a great reason for joy. No worry, no fear will ever be able to take away this serenity which comes not from human things, from human comforts, no: the serenity that comes from God, from knowing that God lovingly guides our lives, and he always does so. Even during problems and suffering, this certainty fosters hope and courage.

How can we rejoice in the Lord? I believe today's Gospel has answer and solution. There is a question posed three times: "What shall we do?". It is raised to John the Baptist by three categories of people: First, the crowd in general; second, the publicans or tax collectors; and third, some soldiers. Each of these groups questions the prophet on what must be done to implement the conversion that he is preaching. John's reply to the question of the crowd is sharing essential goods. He told the first group to share necessities, and therefore says: "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise". What a solid answer to the question "how can we rejoice in the Lord?". The Author to the Letter to Hebrews encouraging everyone to continue to share love, joy and hospitality with everyone; "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So, we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"

St. John the Baptist helps the second group, the tax collectors, to collect no more than the amount owed. What does this mean? No taking 'bribes', John the Baptist is clear. One of the aspects I believe, if we want to rejoice in the Lord, is to learn to be contented in what we have. Why we need to be contented, the Book of Proverbs has the answer?

“Two things I ask of you; do not deny them to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that I need, or I shall be full, and deny you, and say, “Who is the LORD?” or I shall be poor, and steal, and profane the name of my God” (30:7-9). Moreover, wishing to have more will lead us to greed and envy. And he tells the third group, the soldiers, not to extort anything from anyone and to be content with their wages. There are three answers to the three questions of these groups. Three answers for an identical path of repentance, which is manifested in concrete commitments to justice and solidarity. It is the path that Jesus points to in all his preaching: the path of diligent love for neighbour.

If we want to rejoice then it is necessary to repent, to change direction and take the path of justice, solidarity, sobriety; these are the essential values of a fully human and genuinely Christian life. Repent! It sums up the message of the Baptist. And the Liturgy of this Third Sunday of Advent helps us to rediscover a special dimension of repentance: joy. Whoever repents and approaches the Lord, feels joy.

Let me conclude my reflection with following story which tells that God gave his Son so that we may rejoice in him: There was once a bridge which spanned a large river. During most of the day, the bridge sat with its length running up and down the river paralleled with the banks, allowing ships to pass through freely on both sides of the bridge. But at certain times each day, a train would come along, and the bridge would be turned sideways across the river, allowing a train to cross it.

A switchman sat in a small shack on one side of the river where he operated the controls to turn the bridge and lock it into place as the train crossed. One evening as the switchman was waiting for the last train of the day to come, he looked off into the distance through the dimming twilight and caught sight of the train lights. He stepped to the control and waited until the train was within a prescribed distance when he was to turn the bridge. He turned the bridge into position, but, to his horror, he found the locking control did not work. If the bridge was not securely in position, it would wobble back and forth at the ends when the train came on to it, causing the train to jump the track and go crashing into the river. This would be a passenger train with many people aboard. He left the bridge turned across the river and hurried across the bridge to the other side of the river where there was a lever switch, he could hold to operate the lock manually. He would have to hold the lever back firmly as the train crossed. He could hear the rumble of the train now, and he took hold of the lever and leaned backward to apply his weight to it, locking the bridge. He kept applying the pressure to keep the mechanism locked. Many lives depended on this man's strength.

Then, coming across the bridge from the direction of his control shack, he heard a sound that made his blood run cold. "Daddy, where are you?" His four-year-old son was crossing the bridge to look for him. His first impulse was to cry out to the child, "Run! Run!" But

the train was too close; the tiny legs would never make it across the bridge in time. The man almost left his lever to run and snatch up his son and carry him to safety. But he realized that he could not get back to the lever. Either the people on the train or his little son must die. He took a moment to make his decision. The train sped safely and swiftly on its way, and no one aboard was even aware of the tiny broken body thrown mercilessly into the river by the onrushing train. Nor were they aware of the pitiful figure of the sobbing man, still clinging tightly to the locking lever long after the train had passed. They did not see him walking home more slowly than he had ever walked: to tell his wife how their son had brutally died.

Now if we comprehend the emotions which went through this man's heart, we can begin to understand the feelings of our Father in Heaven when He sacrificed His Son to bridge the gap between us and eternal life. Can there be any wonder that He caused the earth to tremble and the skies to darken when His Son died? How does He feel when we speed along through life without giving a thought to what was done for us through Jesus Christ?

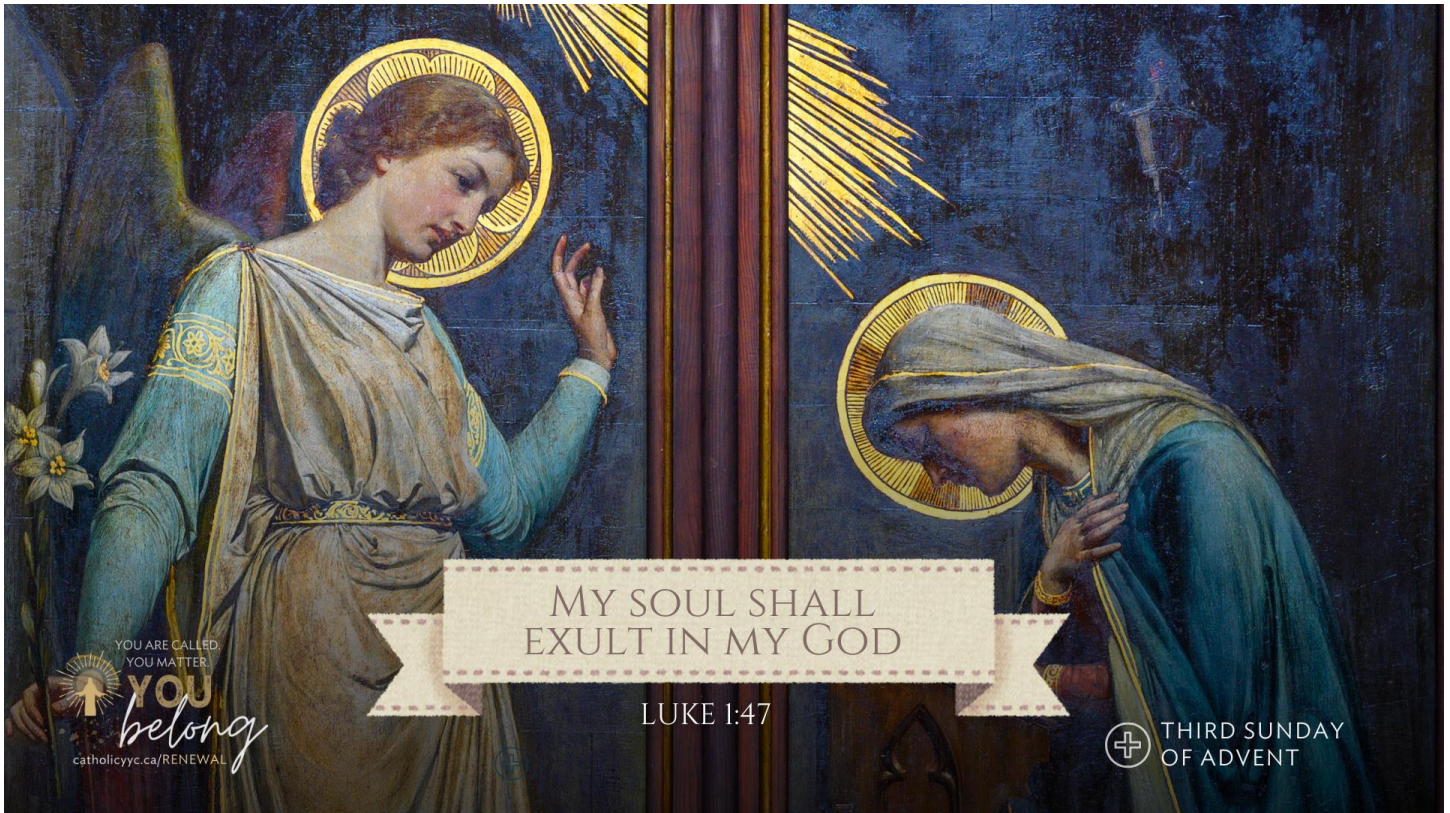
Do we experience God's joy in our lives?



3rd Sunday of Advent Year C – December 15, 2024

DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

Third Sunday of Advent



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.

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.*"

Advent: Joy & Anticipation -

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. Visit catholiccyyc.ca/advent

Winter Clothing Drive

The Diocese of Calgary and Salvation Army are once again organizing a "Winter Clothing Drive" for all participating parishes within the diocese. If your parish would like to receive a donation box, and participate in this worthwhile cause, please get in touch with Mara at mara.capili@calgarydiocese.ca or 403-218-5521.

Simbang Gabi Masses

Experience the rich tradition of Simbang Gabi, a nine-day novena Mass celebrated in joyful anticipation of Christmas. For more information and Mass schedules, visit catholiccyyc.ca/blog/2024-simbang-gabi

Advent Penitential Service

Advent is a time of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts to fully rejoice in the joy of Christmas. Join us for our Parish Advent Penitential Service and experience the gift of God's mercy. View the full list of Penitential Services in the Diocese at catholiccyyc.ca/advent

Divine Mercy & Healing Advent Retreat in Calgary

Join us on **Sat, Dec 21, 2024, at Our Lady of the Assumption Church** in Calgary for an Advent retreat starting at 11 am with Holy Mass, followed by prayers, a talk, Eucharistic Adoration, and veneration of St. Faustina & St. John Paul II relics. For more info, contact (587) 755-1019 or visit sistersofdivinemeracy.org. All are welcome!

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**. 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)**

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.

Fun Night with the Sisters

Inviting young women: Join us on **Fri, Jan 24, 2025, from 6–9 pm** at the FCJ Centre (219-19th Ave SW, Calgary) for an evening of pizza, games, conversations, and night prayer. Register by Jan 22 by email to sisterdianne.turner@calgarydiocese.ca. Free-will offering. All are welcome!

Inspiration Unplugged: Truth and Friendship

Join Fr. David Bellusci, OP for a thought-provoking lecture on **Thu, Jan 23, 2025, from 7–9 pm** at McGivney Hall, St. Mary's University (14550 Bannister Rd SE, Calgary). Discover the teachings of Pier Giorgio Frassati on friendship, sacrifice, and faith, inspired by Fr. Bellusci's book, Pier Giorgio Frassati: Truth, Love, and Sacrifice. Admission is free, and light refreshments will be provided. Parking on campus is \$7 for the evening. For details, visit stmu.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**.

Youth Ministry Opportunities for Grades 6–8

Join us for two exciting and faith-filled opportunities for youth in Grades 6-8:

Immerse Youth Nights: Join St. Michael Catholic Community on **Wed, Jan 15, 2025, 5:30–7:30 pm** for faith, fun, and pizza!

Ablaze Youth Ministry: Gather at St. Bonaventure Parish on **Fri, Jan 17, 2025, 7–9 pm** for fellowship and prayer.

Prison Ministry

- We are urgently seeking volunteers to lead the Liturgy of the Word and Rosary prayers at correctional facilities in the diocese. Contact receptionist@calgarydiocese.ca or call 403-218-5500.

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An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and  Ignatius press

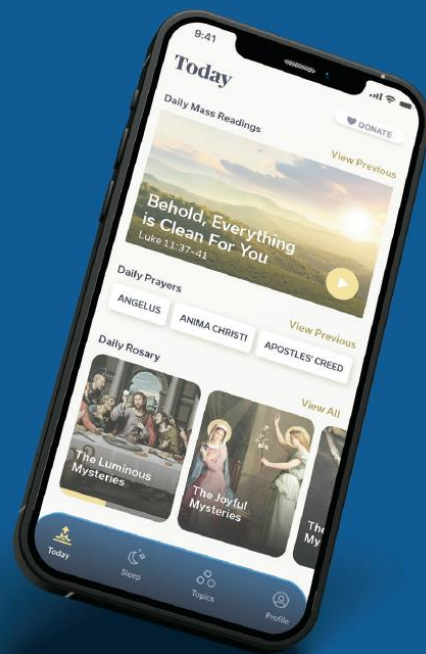
Amen™

The *Free* Catholic Prayer,
Meditation, and Scripture App

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- 3 Enjoy the content you want



Visit amenapp.org for more information



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, December 15	Parish Christmas Breakfast
Monday, December 16	KofC Christmas Supper
Sunday, December 29	Consecration to the Holy Family Breakfast after 10:30 Mass
Monday, January 6	KofC Officers' Meeting
Monday, January 6 to 14	Novena for Life before Weekday and Weekend Masses
Tuesday, January 7	Blessing of Chalk
Monday, January 13	Holy Hour Adoration
Monday, January 13	KofC General Meeting
Sunday, January 19	Parish Breakfast
Monday, February 3	KofC Officers' Meeting
Monday, February 10	KofC General Meeting
Tuesday, February 11	Mass for World Day of the Sick
Sunday, February 23	Parish Breakfast
Wednesday, March 5	Begin 40 Loonies for Lent
Friday, March 7	KofC Lead Stations of the Cross
Monday, March 10	KofC General Meeting
Sunday, March 16	Parish Breakfast
Friday, March 21 – Saturday, March 22	Men's Lenten Retreat
Sunday, March 23	KofC Sponsored Mass – 10:30am
Monday, April 7	KofC Officers' Meeting
Monday, April 14	Holy Hour Adoration
Monday, April 14	KofC General Meeting
Sunday, May 4	Parish Breakfast
Monday, May 5	KofC Officers' Meeting
Monday, May 12	KofC General Meeting
Monday, June 2	KofC General Meeting
Monday, June 9	KofC Year End BBQ
Sunday, June 22	Parish Picnic

The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15th, 2024

I AM BAPTIZING YOU
WITH WATER, BUT ONE
MIGHTIER THAN I IS COMING.
I AM NOT WORTHY
TO UNLACE THE THONG
OF HIS SANDALS.
HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH
THE HOLY SPIRIT AND WITH FIRE.



Luke 3:10-18

***God sent Saint John the Baptist to prepare
the people for the coming of Jesus.
What did he say when some of the people
thought that he might be the saviour?
Look in the mirror to find out!***

Saint Peter Canisius

December 21

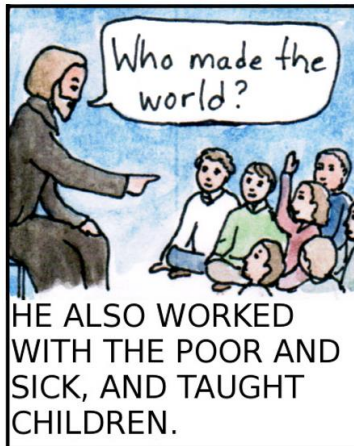
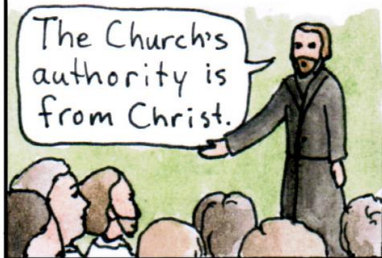
PETER CANISIUS WAS BORN IN HOLLAND IN 1521. HE STUDIED IN COLOGNE, GERMANY, AND RECEIVED HIS MASTER'S DEGREE WHEN HE WAS 19.



WHEN HE WENT TO A RETREAT LED BY BLESSED PETER FABER, HE DECIDED TO BECOME A JESUIT PRIEST.



FR. PETER WAS A GREAT PREACHER, AND BROUGHT THE UNIVERSITIES BACK FROM PROTESTANTISM.

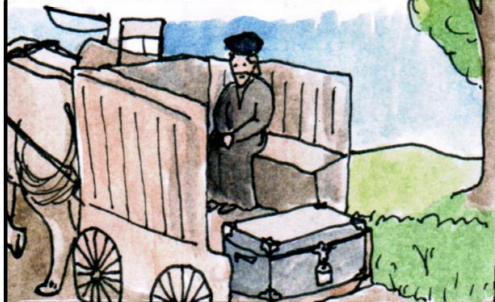


HE ALSO WORKED WITH THE POOR AND SICK, AND TAUGHT CHILDREN.

HE WAS SENT TO THE COUNCIL OF TRENT, A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE POPE AND BISHOPS.



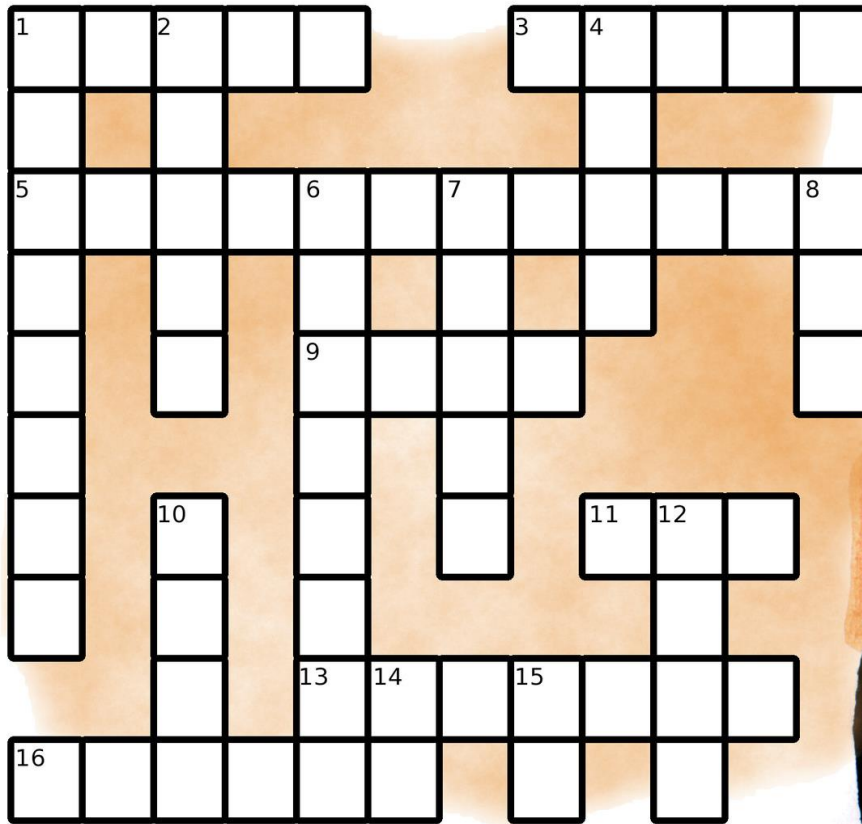
AFTERWARD HE HAD TO SMUGGLE THE DOCUMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL INTO PROTESTANT GERMANY.



SAINT PETER WAS COMISSIONED TO WRITE A CATECHISM, A BOOK EXPLAINING THE FAITH FOR THE PEOPLE. HE DIED AT AGE 76.

SAINT PETER CANISIUS KNEW IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE TO UNDERSTAND THE CHURCH'S TEACHINGS. AFTER HE WROTE THE CATECHISM, HE WROTE ANOTHER- FOR CHILDREN. NO MATTER HOW OLD YOU ARE, YOU SHOULD TRY TO LEARN ALL YOU CAN ABOUT GOD. HOW CAN YOU DO THAT?

Philippians 4 Cross-Word



Fill in the
blanks with the
words at the
bottom and fit
them into the
puzzle.
a=across
d=down



Brothers and _____ (13a): Rejoice in the _____
(12d) always. I _____ (3a) say _____ (14d)
_____ (2d): rejoice! Your _____ (6d) should
be known _____ (15d) all. The Lord is _____ (9a).
_____ (4d) no anxiety at _____ (11a), but in everything,
by prayer and _____ (1d), with
_____ (5a), make _____ (10d) requests
known to _____ (8d). Then the _____ (1a) of God that
surpasses all understanding will _____ (7d) your
hearts and minds in _____ (16a) Jesus.

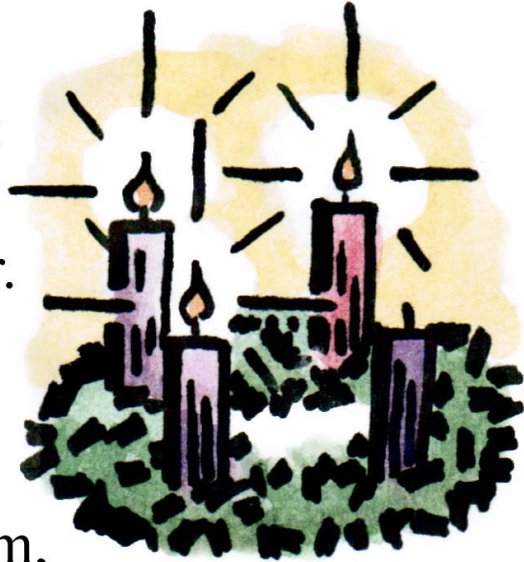
GOD SHALL TO LORD YOUR
CHRIST ALL KINDNESS SISTERS
THANKSGIVING PEACE IT PETITION
NEAR AGAIN GUARD HAVE

Pointing the Way to Jesus

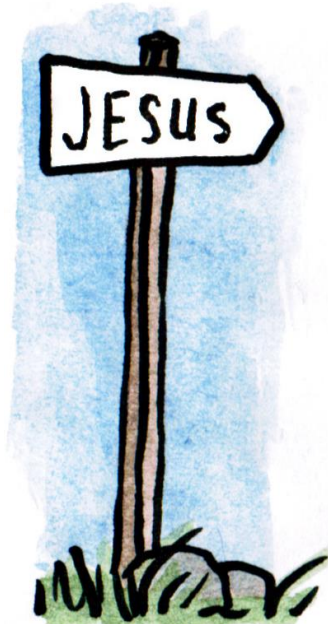


In today's Gospel reading we hear about the people being filled with expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Saint John the Baptist told the people how to prepare for his coming- by doing good and repenting of their sins.

At first the people thought that John the Baptist might be the Messiah. But Saint John was only a messenger. We can think of him as a sign-post pointing the way to Jesus. People came to



see and hear him, and he showed them the way to God.



How can you be like Saint John the Baptist and show other people the way to Jesus?

Answers to Crossword Puzzle:
Across: 1. peace 3. shall 5. thanksgiving 9. near 11. all
13. sisters 15. Christ Down: 1. petition 2. again 4. have
6. kindness 7. guard 8. God 10. your 12. Lord 14. it 15. to



Cross-Over Night Adoration & Holy Mass

— New Year's Eve —

*A beautiful way to bring
in the New Year 2025!*

▪ *Spend time with the Lord* ▪

Location:

Our Lady of the Assumption Church

7624 - 39th Ave NW
Calgary, AB, T3B 1X3

For more information, please
contact Sr. Katrina: (587) 755-1019
www.sistersofdivinemeracy.org



Sisters of Divine Mercy
sistersofdivinemeracy.org

Tuesday - December 31, 2024

10pm Eucharistic Adoration

(opportunity for confession)

11:25pm Holy Rosary

12am Midnight Mass

"Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God"

followed by SUBWAY snacks

Music will be led by the Sisters of Divine Mercy

Divine Mercy & Healing Advent Retreat

"I am bringing you
good news of great joy:
Christ is born." (Luke 2: 10-11)



Saturday - December 21, 2024

*Veneration of
1st Class Relics
of St. Faustina &
St. John Paul II*

*This is a special
opportunity
to bring any
illness, anxiety
and difficulty
to the Lord
for healing!*

11am HOLY MASS followed by Talk,
HEALING PRAYERS &
Opportunity for Confession

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
International Rosary

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For more information,
please contact Sr. Katrina at
(587) 755-1019 or register online
www.sistersofdivinemercy.org



**Potluck
Lunch**

**Retreat Cost:
Donation**

Location:

Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church
7624 - 39th Ave NW Calgary, AB, T3B 1X3





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.