



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT – YR. C SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

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 – Dianne Durda

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.



Repent or Perish
The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree
Luke 13:1-9

March 23, 2025 - 3rd Sunday of Lent – Year C



✠ Masses & Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 22
9:00am – Holy Family Parish
5:00pm – Michael Pietracuba ✠

Sunday, March 23
8:30am – Holy Family Parish ✠
10:30am – Theresa Streifel ✠
6:00pm – Randy Drescher ✠

Monday, March 24
9:00am – Theresa Smith

Tuesday, March 25
9:00am – James Bonagofski

Wednesday, March 26
7:00am – Joe Risling ✠

Thursday, March 27
9:00am – George Kosolofski ✠

Friday, March 28
9:00am – Tillie Schafer ✠
6:00pm – Stations of the Cross

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT – YR. C SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT	
<i>Monthly Operating Budget</i>	\$ 70,156
MARCH MONTH TO DATE	
General Envelope Collection	\$ 37,878
Loose Collections	\$ 3,048
Future Development	\$ 1,887
Misc. Income	\$ 7,460
Total Month Income	\$ 50,273
Budget Vs Actual	-\$ 19,883
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
2025 YEAR TO DATE	
Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 23,542
GOAL - \$70,938 33%	
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 9,067
World Mission	\$ 75
Clergy Retirement	\$ 475
Mission Mexico	\$ 400
CARO	\$ 185
Loonies 4 Lent	\$ 5,566
Seminary Fund	\$ 350
Holy Land & Pope's Pastoral	\$20
<i>Thank You for your Generous Contributions</i>	
Average Weekend Attendance	1219

Third Sunday of Lent
 Exodus 17:3-7.
 Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9.
 Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
 John 4:5-42.

Reflecting on Water.
 Water, water, everywhere. Water in the Exodus through the sea and flowing from the rock in Horeb. Water in Jacob's well. Living water is found only in Jesus, becoming a spring of eternal life.

† In preparing to renew baptismal promises this Easter, how will my figuratively drinking at the well of Baptism today nourish my Christian life?

† Each time I dip my fingers in the font, I will pray for _____?

† When the First Scrutiny is celebrated with the elect this Sunday, how will I also shun with them all that is wrong in our lives, in the Church, and in our world?



*God Bless You,
 Thank You for
 your donations!*

**Special Collections
 March 2025**

Together in Action

Ash Wednesday

Future Development

Easter Flowers

- Stations of the Cross 2025**
- Friday, Mar. 7, 6:00pm – Knights of Columbus
 - Friday, Mar. 14, 6:00pm – Parish Pastoral Council
 - Friday, Mar. 21, 6:00pm – Catholic Women's League
 - Friday, Mar. 28, 6:00pm – Parish Finance Council
 - Friday, Apr. 4, 6:00pm – RCIA
 - Friday, Apr. 11, 6:00pm – St. Louis School
 - Monday, Apr. 14, 7:00pm – St. Patrick's School
- Followed by Meatless Soup & Buns on Fridays!

Stations of the Cross Presented by the School Kids

St. Louis School will present on Friday, April 11, 6:00pm in the Sanctuary followed by the Poverty Meal

St. Patrick's School will present a Shadow Play on Monday, April 14, 7:00pm in the Holy Family Parish Hall

Everyone welcome...
 Please come out and support these events!



DONATE TODAY...

accounting@holyfamilymh.ca



4th Degree
Knights of Columbus
Meeting

March 23rd, 2025
2:00 PM

St. Patrick's Church
Hall Meeting Room



40 Loonies for Lent



2025 marks the eighth year that Holy Family Parish Knights of Columbus Council 9502 is sponsoring the 40 Loonies for Lent program.

Your donations stay here in Medicine Hat going to the Root Cellar, Mustard Seed, Saint Vincent De Paul Society, 5th Ave. & Saint Barnabas Meal Programs.

PLEASE SPECIFY ON YOUR DONATION "LOONIES 4 LENT" Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000.00.

To date we are at \$ 4,046.00

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



Holy Family Parish, Medicine Hat, AB

MARCH 26
Dignity of Life
Ethic & Social
Justice

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

March 28, 2025 ~ Holy Family Parish Hall

Breakfast 7:30 am

Presentation 8:30 am

Theme: Superabundant Saints

Presenter: Jamie Gonzales



Sacramental Preparation 2024-25 CONFIRMATION

CLASS – Thursday, April 3 – 6:00 – 7:30pm

Holy Family Parish Faith Room

Rehearsal – Friday May 2nd – 6:00pm

Confirmation Mass – Saturday May 3rd – 11:00am

1st HOLY COMMUNION

CLASS & RETREAT - Saturday April 5

10:00am to 12:00pm at St. Patrick's Church Hall

OR Drop in at Holy Family Faith Room 1:30 to 3:30pm

Penitential Service

Holy Family Parish

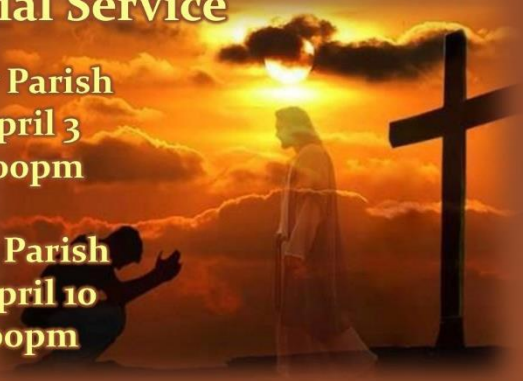
Thursday, April 3

6:00pm – 8:00pm

St. Patrick's Parish

Thursday, April 10

4:00pm - 6:00pm



Holy Family Parish
Sunday Mass Time Change
Beginning April 6, the
Sunday Evening Mass
will be at 5:00pm

Children's Liturgy

No Children's liturgy Palm Sunday.

Check the children's liturgy table in the foyer for activities & coloring pages.

Children's Liturgy
resumes May 4th



For Information or to Volunteer
Call Tammy @ 403-866-7886



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



Knights of Columbus®
Alberta/NWT State Council

50-50
CHARITIES APPEAL RAFFLE

Early Bird
Draws x2
\$1000^{ea}

Draw Dates at 4PM:
February 24, 2025
March 24, 2025

In support of:
Educational Institutions, Community Charities, Churches,
Youth and Seniors Activities across Alberta



**EUCCHARISTIC
MIRACLES OF
THE WORLD
EXHIBIT IS
COMING TO
HOLY FAMILY
PARISH.
VOLUNTEERS
ARE NEEDED.**



Use this QR CODE
to sign up or for
more information,
Call Maria at 403
526 6104 and
leave a message.



SAVE THE DATE

CWL SPRING TEA & BAKE SALE ~ Saturday, May 17, 2025

SUMMER BIBLE CAMP ~ July 7-11, 2025

**2025 MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT
THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE**

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH SATURDAY, APRIL 12

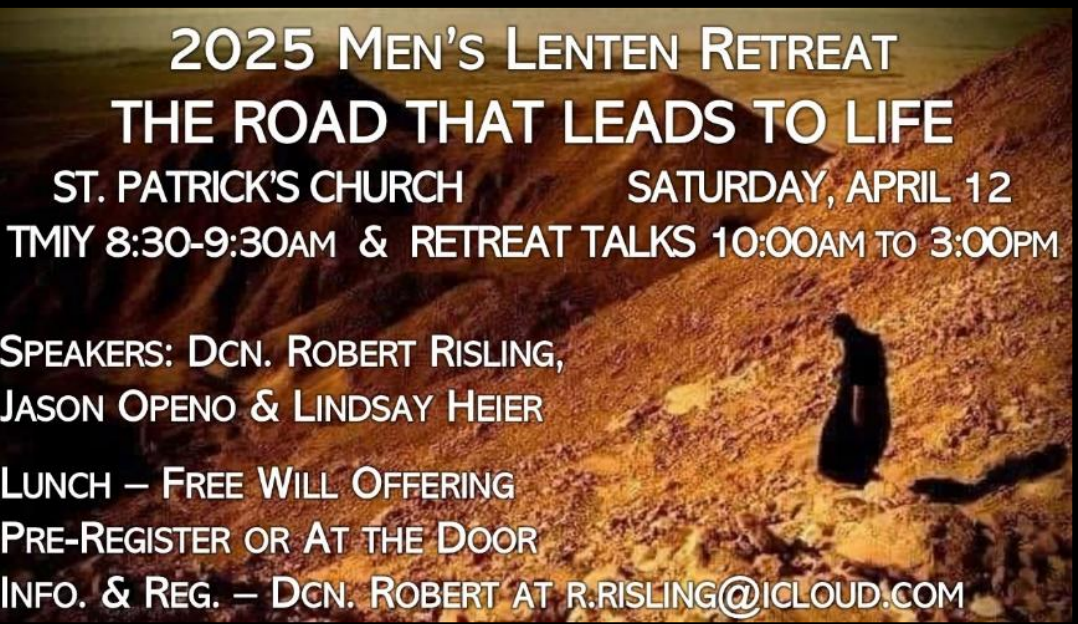
TMIY 8:30-9:30AM & RETREAT TALKS 10:00AM TO 3:00PM

**SPEAKERS: DCN. ROBERT RISLING,
JASON OPENO & LINDSAY HEIER**

LUNCH – FREE WILL OFFERING

PRE-REGISTER OR AT THE DOOR

INFO. & REG. – DCN. ROBERT AT R.RISLING@ICLOUD.COM



**2025 WOMAN'S LENTEN RETREAT
"CALLED TO WITNESS"**

HOLY FAMILY PARISH FOR AGES 16 - 120

FRIDAY, APRIL 11 – 7:00-9:00PM – FAITH ROOM

SATURDAY, APRIL 12 – 10:00AM-3:00PM HFP HALL

\$10.00 - LUNCH PROVIDED

PLEASE GIVE DIETARY NEEDS UPON REGISTRATION

INFO & TO REGISTER: LOUELLA AT 403-502-6883

OR LMBERGER@TELUS.NET



EWTN - LENTEN REFLECTIONS

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/reflections/lent>

Rogers West Cable - Channel 130

Rogers West Xfinity - Channel 573

TELUS Optik TV - Channel 874



EWTN

SALT AND LIGHT - JOURNEY THROUGH LENT 2025

<https://slmedia.org/s/lVfXudmH/journey-through-lent-2025>

Rogers West Cable - Channel 224

Rogers West Xfinity - Channel 240

TELUS Optik TV - Channel 873



Vincentian Corner - 'Almsgiving' Go Beyond Giving Money:

Think of almsgiving as not only donating money but also offering your time, skills, and talents to those in need.

Our Society of St. Vincent de Paul would be happy to welcome you into our family of volunteers. Many individuals and families are struggling in our community today. Our mission is to support those requesting our assistance in the best way possible. We meet with them to listen and to show that we care. This is important and fulfilling work – knowing you have made a difference in a person or family's life situation is truly a feeling of following in Christ's footsteps in a real and practical way.

Please come to one of our weekly meetings held every Tuesday at 1:00 pm. Meetings are held at St. Patrick's Church Hall during March and at Holy Family Parish during April. We invite you to join us to see if this is something God may be calling you to do – you will be so glad that did!

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

Sacred Grace: Church Wedding for Civilly Married Couples

Inviting all civilly married couples in our Diocese to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Catholic Church. This special celebration will be presided over by Bishop William T. McGrattan on Saturday, Sep 13, 2025, at 1:30 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral. Info sessions on how to participate will be available on the following dates/at the following locations:

- **Thursday, March 6** at 6 pm at St. Michael's Parish, Calgary
- **Sunday, March 9** at 6 pm at St. Thomas More Parish, Calgary
- **Sunday, March 16** at 6 pm at St. Patrick's Parish, Calgary
- **Saturday, March 29** at 6 pm Holy Family, Medicine Hat

Register at <https://www.catholicyyc.ca/sacredgrace.html>.

SACRED Grace

CHURCH WEDDING FOR
CIVILLY MARRIED COUPLES

Your love brought you together, but there's a grace that only God can give—a grace that transforms your union into a sacred bond, reflecting His eternal love. Let's celebrate the love God has planned for you!

All civilly married couples in the Diocese of Calgary are warmly invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony, presided over by **Bishop William T. McGrattan** on **Saturday, September 13, 2025** at **1:30 PM** at **St. Mary's Cathedral**.

JOIN THE INFO SESSION



Sunday, Feb 9 at 6 pm
St. Albert the Great, Calgary



Thursday, March 6 at 6 pm
St. Michael's, Calgary



Sunday, Mar 9 at 6 pm
St. Thomas More, Calgary



Sunday, Mar 16 at 6 pm
St. Patrick's, Calgary



YOU ARE CALLED.
YOU MATTER.

YOU
belong

[catholicyyc.ca/RENEWAL](https://www.catholicyyc.ca/RENEWAL)

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION
**CATHOLICYYC.CA/
SACREDGRACE**



St. Louis School

St. Louis School was the very first school within the Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education and we are very proud of our historical and spiritual heritage! As a small community school, we take great pride in our students and our families. We cherish the gift of Catholic Education and strive to grow closer to Jesus, our Lord, by celebrating our faith, participating in the teachings of the Church and demonstrating acts of mercy and charity to those in need, whether locally or globally.

-Ron Blackmer- Principal



**Medicine Hat Catholic
Board of Education**



40 Loonies for Lent



**PLEASE SPECIFY ON YOUR DONATION IF YOU WANT IT TO GO TO
“40 LOONIES 4 LENT”**

2025 marks the eighth year that Holy Family Parish Knights of Columbus Council 9502 is sponsoring the 40 Loonies for Lent program.

This year's program theme is, ***Love the Lord, Love your neighbour***. As it is written in the book of Sirach, chapter 35, verses 6 to 8, “The just man's sacrifice is most pleasing, nor will it ever be forgotten. In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of freewill gifts. With each contribution show a cheerful countenance.” Your donations stay here in Medicine Hat going to the Root Cellar, Mustard Seed, Saint Vincent De Paul Society, 5th Avenue and Saint Barnabas Meal Programs.

It should be noted that Holy Family Parish volunteers serve every Thursday at 5th Avenue, and Holy Family also serves every 4th and 5th Saturday at St. Barnabas Meal Program. I would personally like to thank the many volunteers who sacrifice their time to assist the people who may be struggling.

Through the generous support of Holy Family Parish parishioners, you helped raise **twelve thousand dollars in 2024. Our goal this year is to raise ten thousand dollars.** There are a few ways to make donations. Simply write “40 LOONIES FOR LENT” and the dollar amount on your weekly parish donation envelope. You may donate your full Lenten gift of \$40.00 one time or contribute an amount of \$7.00 or more each week. If sacrificial giving means you can give more, please do so. For those who are not using weekly envelopes you may make your cheque payable to Holy Family Parish or donate cash in a separate envelope marked with your name, address and “40 LOONIES FOR LENT” and place it in the weekly collection basket or drop it off at the Parish office. Alternatively, you may authorize the parish to process your donation on your credit card and most recently Holy Family Parish has added e-transfer but if using e-transfer please note it is to go to: **40 Loonies for Lent.**

Look for updates on funds collected in the parish bulletin.

We thank you in advance for your generosity, **“what ever you do to the least of my brothers you do unto me.”**

Thank you and may the Lord bless you and keep you.



Knights of Columbus®
Alberta/NWT State Council

50-50
CHARITIES APPEAL RAFFLE

Early Bird Draws x2
\$1000^{ea}

Draw Dates at 4PM:
February 24, 2025
March 24, 2025

In support of:
Educational Institutions, Community Charities, Churches,
Youth and Seniors Activities across Alberta



The Alberta/Northwest Territories Knights of Columbus 2025 Spring 50-50 Charities Appeal Raffle is underway. This Charity Appeal supports educational institutions, community charities, churches and youth and seniors' activities across Alberta.

Our Holy Family Parish Knights of Columbus thank our parishioners for their past

generous support of this charity appeal. Our council support two community charities, Project Rachel and Elizabeth House. Each charity supports pregnant women and mothers. There are two early bird draws, each for \$1000, on February 24 and March 24, with the ticket purchase ending April 26.

50/50 tickets can be purchased using www.koc5050.com and please remember to search for our council, **9502**, so our council will receive your donation.

If you have any questions about the Charity Appeal, contact Greg Martin, 403-878-0639 or Pat Ries, 403-458-0442. Our 9502 KofC Council thanks you for your support.



Medicine Hat Catholic Schools' Education Foundation

50/50 Cash Raffle

»» **Draw Date: April 11**

Draw opens: Feb 10th @ 6:00am
Draw ends: April 10th @ 11:59pm

- »» 1 entry for \$10
- »» 4 entries for \$20
- »» 20 entries for \$50
- »» 100 entries for \$100

SCAN QR CODE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS!



Together in the support of
Medicine Hat Catholic
community children & the
education process!

rafflebox.ca/raffle/mhcsef-spring25

The Kids' Bulletin

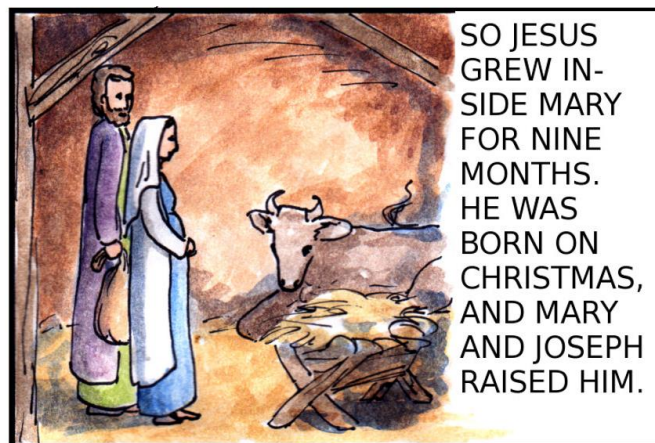
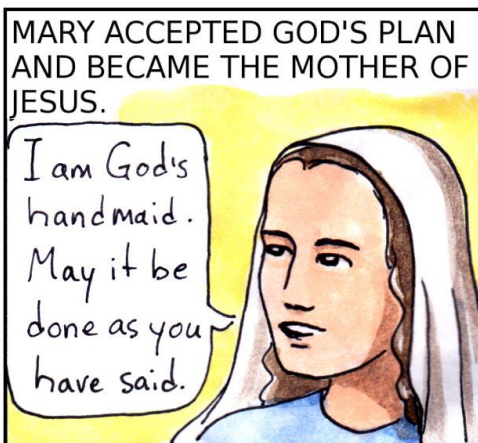
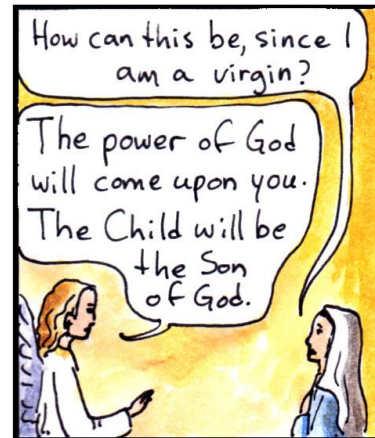
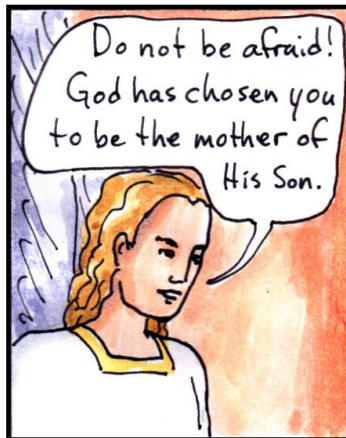
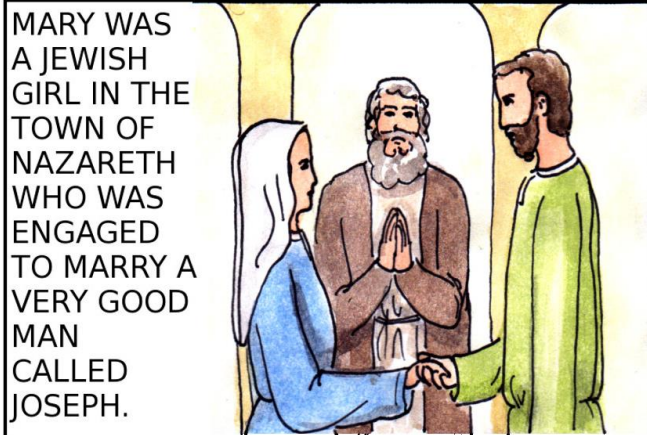
Third Sunday of Lent
March 23rd, 2025



*What's wrong with this fig tree?
See what the two men want to do with it by
reading what they say in a mirror.*

The Annunciation

March 25



WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR GOD TO COME TO EARTH AS A MAN, HE CHOSE MARY TO BE HIS MOTHER. BUT HE DIDN'T JUST TELL HER THAT SHE WOULD BECOME HIS MOTHER; HE GAVE HER A CHOICE. BECAUSE MARY CHOSE TO SAY "YES" TO GOD, JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD AND DIED TO LET US INTO HEAVEN!

The Burning Bush Word-Find

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

*See if you can find
all the words
in CAPITALS
in this story.*



*The left over letters
tell what the
Israelites in Egypt
wanted:*

A _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _

MOSES was looking after the sheep of his father-in-law, JETHRO, on Mount HOREB. Suddenly he noticed a BUSH that was BLAZING like FIRE, but it wasn't burning up! He came FORWARD to look closer, but GOD spoke from the FLAME, saying "Come no nearer. TAKE your SHOES OFF, for this is HOLY GROUND. I am the God of your fathers-of ABRAHAM, ISAAC and JACOB." Moses was AFRAID to LOOK at God, and covered his FACE. The LORD said, "I HAVE seen the MISERABLE state of my people in EGYPT and heard their cry to be FREE. I will DELIVER them from their SUFFERING and bring them to a new LAND."

What Kind of Fig Tree are You?



In today's Gospel reading, we hear a parable about a fig tree. The owner waited three years for it to grow some figs, but it still wasn't producing any. He told the gardener to cut it down. But the gardener said he would try just for one more year to get it to bear fruit- and if it didn't give any then he would cut it down.

The fig tree is like a person who can do good things but doesn't. The owner shows the justice of God- he has given the tree enough chances so its time is up. But the gardener is like God's mercy. He wants to give the tree one more chance. And he's going to give it extra fertilizer to try to help it.



Lent is a good time to look at our own life and see if we are doing all the good things we can. Maybe there's something nice that we know we could do for someone but we just never bother to. Or maybe we aren't praying quite as much as we know we should. God is giving us a chance to become better people this Lent, and it's your job to make it happen!

Answer to Word-Find: Free land

www.thekidsbulletin.com



3rd SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

MARCH 23, 2025

HIS INFINITE MERCY

On Ash Wednesday, we started our Lenten journey by receiving ashes on our foreheads to remind ourselves that we are dust and unto dust we shall return. We continue our Lenten journey as we deepen our faith and spiritual life by meditating on the Word of God. First Sunday of Lent invited us to walk with Jesus to desert (a place of emptiness and humility) as he was tempted by the devil to examine our own temptations, shortcomings and failures and learn to rise above them. On the Second Sunday of Lent we climbed the holy mountain with Jesus to experience his splendid glory (Please read 2 Peter 1:16-21) as he opened our hearts and minds to understand the true meaning of his greatest sacrifice which will never be offered again as we read in the Letter to Hebrews “But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!” (9:11-14).

St. Irenaeus, bishop and martyr once fighting against the heresies of his time, said; “From the beginning God created man out of his own generosity. He chose the patriarchs to give them salvation. He took his people in hand, teaching them, unteachable as they were, to follow him. He gave them prophets, accustoming man to bear his Spirit and to have communion with God on earth. He who stands in need of no one gave communion with

himself to those who need him. Like an architect he outlined the plan of salvation to those who sought to please him. By his own hand he gave food in Egypt to those who did not see him. To those who were restless in the desert he gave a law perfectly suited to them. To those who entered the land of prosperity he gave a worthy inheritance. He killed the fattened calf for those who turned to him as Father and clothed them with the finest garment. In so many ways he was training the people to take part in the harmonious song of salvation”.

He continues to say “For this reason John in the book of Revelation says: His voice was as the voice of many waters. The Spirit of God is indeed a multitude of waters, for the Father is rich and great. As the Word passed among all these people, he provided help in generous measure for those who were obedient to him, by drawing up a law that was suitable and fitting for every circumstance. He established a law for the people governing the construction of the tabernacle and the building of the temple, the choice of Levites, the sacrifices, the offerings, the rites of purification and the rest of what belonged to worship. He himself needs none of these things. He is always filled with all that is good. Even before Moses existed, he had within himself every fragrance of all that is pleasing. Yet he sought to teach his people, always ready though they were to return to their idols. Through many acts of indulgence, he tried to prepare them for perseverance in his service. He kept calling them to what was primary by means of what was secondary, that is, through foreshadowing to the reality, through things of time to the things of eternity, through things of the flesh to the things of the spirit, through earthly things to the heavenly things. As he said to Moses: You will fashion all things according to the pattern that you saw on the mountain. For forty days Moses was engaged in remembering the words of God, the heavenly patterns, the spiritual images, the foreshadowing of what was to come. Saint Paul says: They drank from the rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. After speaking of the things that are in the law he continues: All these things happened to them as symbols: they were written to instruct us, on whom the end of the ages has come. Through foreshadowing of the future, they were learning reverence for God and perseverance in his service. The law was therefore a school of instruction for them, and a prophecy of what was to come”.

One rainy afternoon a mother was driving along one of the main streets of town, taking those extra precautions necessary when the roads are wet and slick. Suddenly, her son, spoke up from his relaxed position in his seat. "Mom, I'm thinking of something." This announcement usually meant he had been pondering some fact for a while, and was now ready to expound all that his six-year-old mind had discovered. She was eager to hear. "What are you thinking?" she asked.

"The rain!" he began, "is like sin, and the windshield wipers are like God wiping our sins away."

After the chill bumps raced up her arms, she was able to respond. "That's really good, my son."

Then her curiosity broke in. How far would this little boy take this revelation? So, she asked... "Do you notice how the rain keeps on coming? What does that tell you?"

He didn't hesitate one moment with his answer: "We keep on sinning, and God just keeps on forgiving us."

I think we should always remember this whenever we turn our wipers on. We must continually come to the Lord and seek His forgiveness.

St. Augustine reflecting on the passion of Christ says "This is generally understood of Christ, the head, as every Christian acknowledges. When day was fading into evening, the Lord laid down his life on the cross, to take it up again; he did not lose his life against his will. Here, too, we are symbolized. What part of him hung on the cross if not the part he had received from us? How could God the Father ever cast off and abandon his only Son, who is indeed one God with him? Yet Christ, nailing our weakness to the cross (where, as the Apostle says: Our old nature was nailed to the cross with him), cried out with the very voice of our humanity: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? The evening sacrifice is then the passion of the Lord, the cross of the Lord, the oblation of the victim that brings salvation, the holocaust acceptable to God. In his resurrection he made this evening sacrifice a morning sacrifice. Prayer offered in holiness from a faithful heart rises like incense from a holy altar. Nothing is more fragrant than the fragrance of the Lord. May all who believe share in this fragrance. Therefore, our old nature, in the words of the Apostle, was nailed to the cross with him in order, as he says, to destroy our sinful body, so that we may be slaves to sin no longer".

The holy men and women in our Christian faith are the extraordinary examples of God's mercy and our conversion as someone said, "all saints have a past, and all sinners have a future". I just like to share the conversion story of St. Augustine who was born in 354 A.D in Africa. His mother, St. Monica, was a devout Christian, who raised her son with a Christian education; however, he was not baptized. Augustine's father was a pagan who did not convert to Catholicism until on his death bed and he had taught his son to be more concerned with worldly goods and pleasures. At age 16, St. Augustine stole fruit he did not want from a neighboring garden simply because it was forbidden, as described in his autobiography, *The Confessions*. "It was foul, and I loved it. I loved my own error—not that for which I erred, but the error." (Confessions 2:4). St. Augustine's friends were boys that bragged about their sexual conquests. He himself had a lover for fifteen years

and fathered an illegitimate son. Throughout these experiences, St. Monica continued to pray for the conversion of her son and husband. At the age of 32, St. Augustine heard a young voice tell him to take and read St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. St. Augustine was converted. He received baptism from St. Ambrose, returned home, and gave all to the poor. He was consecrated Bishop of Hippo in 395.

St. Augustine's story reminds us first and foremost, that hope is never lost. God can work and move in the most hardened of hearts for conversion, perhaps when we least expect it. All sin, no matter how grave, can be forgiven if we repent. Like St. Monica, we should never tire of praying for the conversion of family members, friends, and acquaintances just as St. Monica prayed unceasingly for the conversion of both her son and her husband. St. Monica's prayers were eventually answered.

In the First Reading today Moses is having beautiful encounter with God in the burning bush. The close encounter of Moses with God is the beginning of his conversion as he opens his heart and mind to listen to God's voice. God says to Moses that this hidden cry of the people has reached even up to him: He has heard, He has seen their oppression and sufferings ... And He has decided to take action, sending Moses to rise and nourish the dream of freedom in the Israelites and to reveal to them that this dream is His will: to make Israel's people free, His people, bound to him by a Covenant of love, called to witness the faithfulness of the Lord before all the people. But for Moses to be able to fulfil his mission, God instead wants him to descend with him amid the Israelites. Moses' heart must become God's, attentive and sensitive to the suffering and dreams of men and women, to those who cry in secret when they raise their hands towards heaven, because they have nothing else to hold onto on Earth. It is the groaning of the Spirit, and Moses must listen not with his ears but with his heart. Today we can ask ourselves, to learn how to listen with our heart. The one who teaches how to listen this way is the Spirit. He is the one who teaches us to listen with the heart. To open it. He teaches us to call God "Abba, Father".

Cardinal John Henry Newman once talking about his conversion wrote "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He

is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about. We learn from Cardinal Newman to follow the words of scripture and “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.” (1 Peter 3:15).

God through Moses freed Israelites from the bondage of Egyptian slavery with his mighty right hand. God loves his people, and he never leaves them alone as St. Paul says “he can not deny himself” for he has written our names on the palms of his hands, and he will never forsake or forget us.

In the Second Reading St. Paul wants us to look back to our ancestors and believe that God’s mercy is needed for our conversion “Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. And do not complain as some of them did and were destroyed by the destroyer”. How wonderful to believe in the mercy of God so that our hearts may be converted back to our heavenly Father? Prophet Ezekiel quoted “Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? And you, mortal, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not save them when they transgress; and as for the wickedness of the wicked, it shall not make them stumble when they turn from their wickedness; and the righteous shall not be able to live by their righteousness when they sin. Though I say to the righteous that they shall surely live, yet if they trust in their righteousness and commit iniquity, none of their righteous deeds shall be remembered; but in the iniquity that they have committed shall die. Again, though I say to the wicked, “You shall surely die,” yet if they turn from their sin and do what is lawful and right— if the wicked restore the pledge, give back what they have taken by robbery, and walk in the statutes of life, committing no iniquity—they shall surely live, they shall not die. None of the sins that they have committed shall be remembered against them; they have done what is lawful and right, they shall surely live” (33:10-16). Also please do read (Psalm 95 & Luke 15:1-32).

The Gospel for this third Sunday of Lent speaks to us about God’s infinite mercy. In today’s Gospel passage, Jesus refers to two tragic events which had caused a stir: a cruel suppression carried out by Roman soldiers in the temple, and the collapse of the tower of Siloam in Jerusalem, which resulted in 18 deaths. Why is Jesus using these two examples? I think this could be the possible answer to these questions:

Jesus mentions the tower in Siloam in the context of answering a question about a recent tragedy in Jerusalem. Some people told Jesus about a group of Galileans (Galileans was used to refer to members of a fanatical sect (Zealots)), followers of Judas of Galilee, who fiercely resented the taxation of the Romans. Galileans was also a term used by some in the Roman Empire to name the followers of Christianity, called in this context as the Galilean faith. Judas Iscariots was also one of the Zealot members who had come to the temple to sacrifice, and Pontius Pilate slaughtered them, probably due to a public disturbance the Galileans were causing (Luke 13:1). The men who related this story to Jesus, may have been trying to lure Him into taking sides, either for or against Pilate, or they may have simply been curious about Jesus' reaction to the massacre. Whatever their motivations, Jesus' response was sobering: "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish" (verses 2–3).

Jesus continues the conversation by mentioning another current event, this one involving the tower of Siloam: "Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them - do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish" (Luke 13:4–5). The fall of the tower of Siloam is not mentioned in other historical records, and, since the Bible gives no more detail of the structure's collapse, we cannot be sure what the tower was for or why it fell. The tragedy was obviously well-known to Jesus' hearers. Siloam was an area just outside the walls of Jerusalem on the southeast side of the city. A spring-fed pool was there, which was the scene of one of Christ's miracles (John 9). The tower of Siloam may have been part of an aqueduct system or a construction project that Pilate had begun. In any case, the tower fell, and eighteen people were killed in the catastrophe.

Jesus is aware of the superstitious mentality of his listeners, and he knows that they misinterpreted that type of event. In fact, they thought that, if those people died in such a cruel way it was a sign that God was punishing them for some grave sin they had committed, as if to say, "they deserved it". Instead, the fact that they were saved from such a disgrace made them feel "good about themselves". They "deserved it"; "I'm fine". Jesus clearly rejects this outlook, because God does not allow tragedies to punish sins, and he affirms that those poor victims were no worse than others. Instead, he invites his listeners to draw from these sad events a lesson that applies to everyone, because we are all sinners; in fact, he said to those who questioned him, "Unless you repent you will all likewise perish". (Please read Ezekiel 33 chapter)

Today too, seeing certain misfortunes and sorrowful events, we can be tempted to "unload" the responsibility onto the victims, or even onto God himself. But the Gospel

invites us to reflect: What idea do we have of God? Are we truly convinced that God is like that, or isn't that just our projection, a God made to "our image and likeness"?

Jesus, on the contrary, invites us to change our heart, to make a radical about-face on the path of our lives, to abandon compromises with evil - and this is something we all do, compromises with evil, hypocrisy... I think that nearly all of us has a little hypocrisy - to decidedly take up the path of the Gospel. But again, there is the temptation to justify ourselves. What should we convert from? Aren't we basically good people? How many times have we thought this: "But after all I am a good person" ... isn't that true? "Am I not a believer and even quite a church goer?" And we believe that this way we are justified. There is a little story from St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, when she prayed for that man who was condemned to death, a criminal, who did not want to receive the comfort of the Church. He rejected the priest, he didn't want forgiveness, he wanted to die like that. And she prayed in the convent, and then, at the moment of his execution, the man turned to the priest, took the Crucifix and kissed it. The patience of God! He does the same with us, with all of us. How many times, we don't know the Lord saves us because he has great compassion for us. And this is his mercy. It's never too late to convert, but it's urgent. Now is the time! Let us begin today.

Let me conclude my reflection with this story by an unknown author which will always help us to understand that when we believe in the mercy of God, we are able to see everything clearly despite our burdens in life.

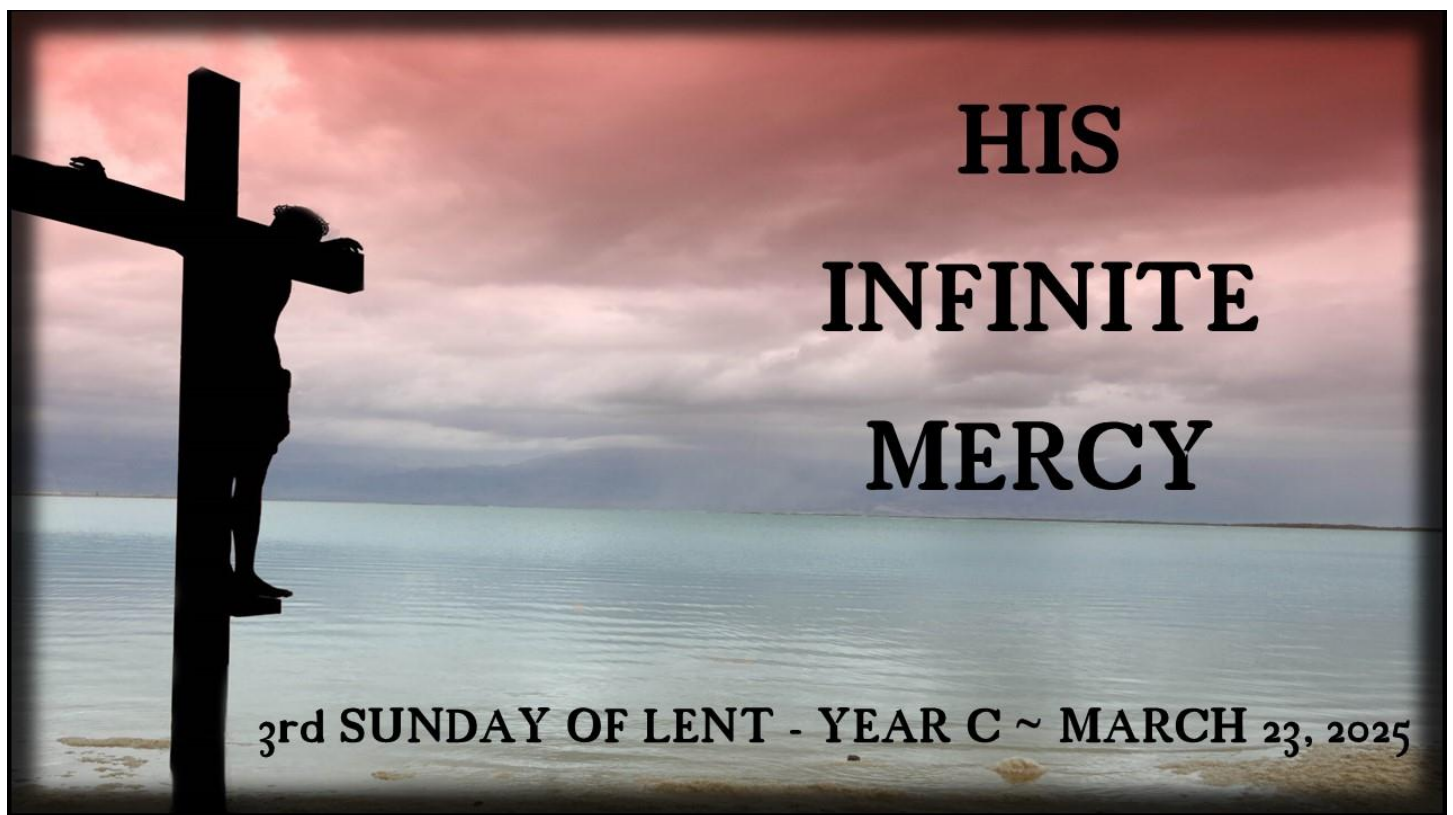
Brenda was a young woman who was invited to go rock climbing. Although she was scared to death, she went with her group to a tremendous granite cliff. Despite her fear, she put on the gear, took a hold of the rope, and started up the face of that rock. Well, she got to a ledge where she could take a breather. As she was hanging on there, the safety rope snapped against Brenda's eye and knocked out her contact lens. Well, here she is on a rock ledge, with hundreds of feet below her and hundreds of feet above her. Of course, she looked and looked and looked, hoping it had landed on the ledge, but it just wasn't there. Here she was, her sight now blurry. She was desperate and began to get upset, so she prayed to the Lord to help her.

When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but there was no contact lens to be found. She sat down, despondent, with the rest of the party, waiting for the rest of them to make it up the face of the cliff. She looked out across range after range of mountains, thinking of that Bible verse that says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth." She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Finally, they walked down the trail to the bottom. At the bottom, there was a new party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Did anybody lose a contact lens?" Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock, carrying it. Brenda told me that her father was a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a picture of an ant lugging that contact lens with the words, "Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."

I think it would probably do some of us good to occasionally say, "God, I don't know why you want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But if you want me to carry it, I will." God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

How do we experience his infinite mercy in our life?



DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



2025 Lenten Resources

Lent is more than a season—it's a journey of the heart, a call to renewal, and an invitation to draw closer to Christ. Whether through prayer, reflection, music, or storytelling, these resources can help you enter into Lent more fully. Let them guide, challenge, and inspire you to embrace this sacred time with depth and purpose.

Read the Bishop's Lenten message, and find resources to deepen your Lent! Now available at catholiccyc.ca/Lent

Living for Greatness Retreat

Students in Grades 6–12 are invited to discover how to listen to God's voice and follow His plan. Includes Mass at 5 pm, and complimentary supper. When: **Sun, Mar 23, 2025, 3 – 8 pm at St. James Parish, Okotoks.** [More info & registration](#) - To register via email: youthgroup@stjamesparishrc.com

Lenten Healing Retreat

Experience healing through Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and a special Healing Service led by Fr. Roy Palatty. When: **Mar 25–27, 2025, 7 – 10 pm at St. Michael's Catholic Community, Calgary.** All are welcome!

Lenten Formation for Young Couples with Fr. Derek

Join SFXC Young Couples for a Lenten Formation with Fr. Derek Remus on Marriage & the Cross. When: **Saturday, March 29, 2025 at St. Mary's Cathedral.** The event begins with Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral at 12:15 pm, followed by a formation session at St. Mary's Hall from 12:45 to 1:45 pm. Engaged couples are welcome. Childcare available.

I Thirst - Lenten Mission at Ascension Parish

Join Ascension Parish's Lenten Mission with speaker Michael Chiasson. When: **Thu, Apr 3 at 7 pm at Ascension Catholic Parish, Calgary.** This 90-minute evening of music, stories, and reflection will explore the theme "*I Thirst*" and the hope from Christ. Register at ascensioncatholicparish.ca



Consider these simple ways to pray for renewal in our heart, our parish, and our diocese this Lenten season:

- Pray daily the Holy Spirit Prayer, asking for Renewal in your heart, parish, and diocese.
- Pray the Rosary with the intention of Renewal.
- Offer up a Mass—try attending a weekday Mass.
- Spend time in [Adoration](#), resting in Christ's presence.
- Pray the [Way of the Cross](#), reflecting on His sacrifice.
- Practice [Friday abstinence or fasting](#) as an offering for Renewal.
- Simply pray: "Holy Spirit, show me what I can do for Renewal."

Together in Action 2025

Thank you for your generosity in last year's Together in Action (TIA) campaign. This year, inspired by Romans 12:12, we embrace the call to "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer." Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office or made online at catholicyyca.ca/TIA - where your online donation will be included as part of our parish contribution]. Together, let us trust in God's providence and extend His hope to those in need.

Sacred Grace: Church Wedding for Civilly Married Couples

Inviting all civilly married couples in our Diocese to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Catholic Church. Info sessions on how to participate are available on the following location:

- **Sat, Mar 29 at 6 pm**, Holy Family, Medicine Hat
- Or visit catholicyyca.ca/sacredgrace

Shroud of Jesus: Hope of the Resurrection

St. Patrick's Parish, Calgary is hosting the *Man of*

the Shroud Exhibition & Conference from April 3 - 27, 2025. There will be an extensive exhibit on the history, significance and scientific aspects of the Shroud of Turin. Check their website for all the events and speakers at www.stpatrickcalgary.com

The Psalms as a way of prayer - Lenten Mission with Fr Julian

Join Fr. Julian Studden for a Lenten Mission exploring The Psalms as a Way of Prayer. The mission will conclude with a Lenten Penitential Service on Wednesday. When: **Mon-Wed, Apr 7-9 at 7 pm** at St. Joseph's Parish, Calgary. All are welcome!

Lenten Retreat with Divine Mercy Sisters

Take advantage of the special graces of Lent by joining a prayerful afternoon of Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, the Hour of Mercy, conferences, healing prayers, and the International Holy Rosary. When: **Sat, Apr 5, from 2 pm to 6 pm at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Calgary**. Donations accepted. Register online: www.sistersofdivinemeracy.org.

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, Mar 7 at 3 pm to Sun, Mar 9 at 7 am (Chapel)
- [Sacred Heart, Strathmore](#) - Fri, Mar 14 at 7:45 am to Sat, Mar 15 at 11:45 pm

Pastoral Care Ministry Training

- If you are called to minister to the sick, elderly, dying, homebound, and bereaved - and approved by your pastor or Pastoral Care Coordinator, you can register for the Pastoral Care Ministry Training at catholicyyca.ca/pastoralcare or contact Mara at 403-218-5521. When: **Sat, May 24 & Jun 7, 9:30 am - 3 pm** at Ascension Parish, Calgary.



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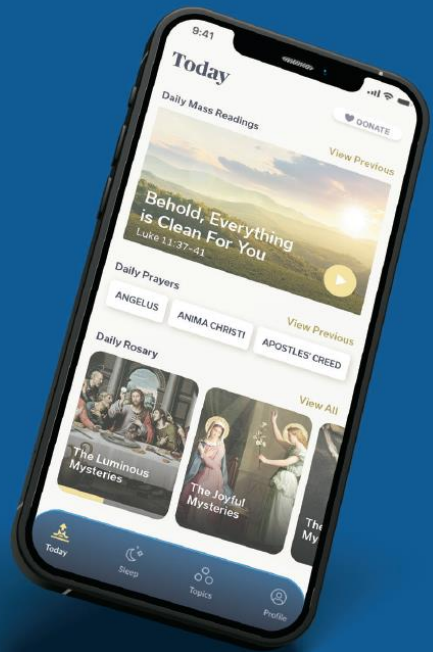
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Joe McKenna Council #9502

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

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



Hat Grannies for Africa Fabric, Yarn & More Sale

St. John's Presbyterian Church
504 – 2nd Street SE, Medicine Hat

All proceeds to



Saturday, March 29, 2025
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

For further information or
pick up of donations call:
Kathy at 403-928-2135 or
Sheila at 403-580-7715

Admission: \$2.00

CASH SALES
ONLY

Half-price sale
12:00 - 2:00 pm

Facebook @ Hat Grannies

www.stephenlewisfoundation.org

*The Hat Grannies for Africa are holding their annual Fabric, Yarn and More sale on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 504 – 2nd Street SE, Medicine Hat, from 9:00 – 2:00. The half price sale starts at 12:00. Admission is \$2.00 and all sales are cash only. We encourage everyone to bring their own bags. There will be a wide selection of fabrics and a large assortment of yarn in addition to notions, patterns and craft materials. The quilting table is going to be loaded again this year! All proceeds go to the **Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign**, an initiative of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. If you have goods to donate or want further information, contact Sheila at 403-580-7715 (cell) or Kathy at 403-928-2135 (cell). You can also contact us through Facebook @ Hat Grannies.*

ARTS FOR AFRICA



Charity Art Show & Sale

Saturday, April 5 from 1-4 pm
St John's Church 2nd St & 5 Ave SE



Paintings, Batiks, photos & curiosities
from local and international artists
to browse and buy



All proceeds in support of Teega Wende
an orphanage in Burkina Faso, W Africa

Share the joy of giving!

Hosted by CARO - Canadians Reaching out to the World's Children





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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!

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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 we 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 @holymfamilymh.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@holymfamilymh.ca so it can be sent to the diocese.