



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024 TO JANUARY 5, 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 – 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.

TOGETHER in ACTION | 2024
2024 Goal - \$70,938
Donations to date - \$72,964
YOU ARE called WE DID IT!!!
YOU MATTER. YOU BELONG. THANK YOU!!!!!!

The Clergy and Staff would like to wish all our Parishioners and Visitors a Safe & Joyful Christmas.



Special Collections DECEMBER

Future Development
Together in Action
Society of
St. Vincent de Paul
December 12, 2024
Mission Mexico
December 25, 2024
Christmas Offering

We pray you'll see the Blessing of God's plan unfolding for all of you in 2025

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024 TO JANUARY 5, 2025

OPERATING FINANCES

NOVEMBER 1-30, 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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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

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

If you want your donations to reflect on your 2024 Tax Receipt, make sure to get them in by December 31. Office Closed December 23rd to January 1st

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:1-4a.
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19.
Hebrews 10:5-10.
Luke 1:39-45.

Leaping for Joy.

Let us take our cue from the six-month gestating baby in the womb of Elizabeth leaping for joy on encountering the Lord and the one who brings him. Let us sing again and again all week the antiphon of the psalm: "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved."

✝ How can I keep looking for the face of Christ in those around me?

✝ Whom will I visit, even virtually if needed, to help in some way?

✝ How can I get to Christmas Day in peace?

✝ Masses & Mass Intentions



Saturday, December 21

5:00pm – Ken Graumans ✝

Sunday, December 22

8:30am – Shannon English & Family

10:30am – Holy Family Parish

6:00pm – Cindy Anhorn ✝

Monday, December 23

9:00am – Frank Gutfriend ✝

Tuesday, December 24

5:00pm – Holy Family Parish

9:30pm – Annelise Van Ham

Wednesday, December 25

10:00am – Natividad Refugia

Thursday, December 26

NO MASS TODAY

Friday, December 27

9:00am – Edwin Fischer ✝

SIMBANG GABI

DECEMBER 15-23 5:30 AM

The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas

Mass during the Night – Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Isaiah 9:1-6. Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13. Titus 2:11-14. Luke 2:1-14.

Mass during the Day – Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25, 2024

Isaiah 52:7-10. Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6. Hebrews 1:1-6. John 1:1-18.

Today

This first coming of Jesus is the promise that this Christ will come again. He is with us now – but also coming at some unknown time to complete all things in the perfect Reign and Kingdom of God. Today we marvel over God's good grace.

✝ How will I behave with family and friends because Jesus Christ is with me and us today?

Sunday, December 29, 2024

The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28.

Psalms 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10.

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24.

Luke 2:22-40.

Family Life.

Even the pre-teen Jesus astonishes and worries his parents as they fret over their child! Those of us who are parents know this stress. But all of us, even us aged ones, are still children of God, dearly loved and called to be obedient.

- † How will I obey God this day?
- † What commandment will I keep?
- † What mercy work will I do?

† Masses & Mass Intentions



Saturday, December 28

5:00pm – Mr. & Mrs. Cesario & Family

Sunday, December 29

8:30am – Holy Family Parish

10:30am – Rev. Msgr. Mario Ramon †

6:00pm – Heather Irvine

Monday, December 30

9:00am – Andrew Ross †

Tuesday, December 31

5:00pm – Cynthia Ross †

Wednesday, January 1

10:00am – Tannis & Jay Jans

Thursday, January 2

9:00am – Mijo Bagaric †

Friday, January 3

9:00am – Marlene Sauer †

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

New Year's Day - Wednesday, January 1st 2025

Numbers 6:22-27. Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8. Galatians 4:4-7. Luke 2:16-21.

The Manger

The shepherds find Jesus, not in a crib, but in a manger, a feedbox for cattle. This image reminds us that he is indeed food for us now – Body and Blood in Communion. Let us also be amazed.

- † What continues to amaze me about Jesus' gift of himself?
- † How can I glorify and praise God this day and this new year?
- † What mercy work can I do to help those in need of shelter?

DONATE TODAY...

accounting@holyfamilymh.ca



Sunday, January 5th, 2025
The Epiphany of the Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6.
Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13.
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6.
Matthew 2:1-12.

Gifts.

The Magi, these foreign interpreters of dreams, do the following: follow a star, travel a great distance, trust the words of others, bring and give gifts. In some countries, Epiphany and not Christmas is gift-giving day. This twelfth-day (when on the traditional 6th of January) brings to completion the manifestation of Christ – first to the Jews and today to everyone. No one is foreign to God's good grace.

- † How will I search diligently for Jesus?
- † Because God is merciful to me, what mercy work can I do for another?
- † What gifts will I give to others in need?



Special Collections
JANUARY 2025
January 1
Solemnity of Mary
Future Development
Together in Action
Society of
St. Vincent de Paul



† Masses & Mass Intentions



Saturday, January 4

8:00am – Steve Sekura †

5:00pm – Poor Souls in Purgatory †

Sunday, January 5

8:30am – Holy Family Parish

10:30am – Frank Van Ham Sr. †

6:00pm – Alice Murray †

Monday, January 6

9:00am – Fr. Vincent Ha

Tuesday, January 7

9:00am – The Miller Family †

No Healing Mass this Month

Wednesday, January 8

7:00am – Bill Douglas †

Thursday, January 9

9:00am – LJ & EJ & Family

Friday, January 10

9:00am – Nick Schafer †

First Saturday Mass

*The 1st Saturday of
each month
at 8:00am*

January 4th, 2024



Epiphany House Blessing "20+C+M+B+25"

"Chalking of the door" is a wonderful family activity and spiritual practice, invoking the God's blessing and protection on all who live/work/visit the home. Write "20+C+M+B+25" anywhere on your front door, typically at the top, with blessed chalk.

The 20 is the first two numbers of the year. C for Caspar, M for Melchior, & B for Balthasar and 25 stands for the last two numbers of the year. Chalk will be blessed January 4th & 5th at Mass

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



1 JOSEPH
2 MARY
3 TOP 10 MOVIES
4 OF ARC
5 HEART
6 PADRE PIO
7 MIRACLE MAN
8
9 GUADALUPE
10 MOTHER TERESA

USE WITH

Roku

Apple TV

firetv

chromecast

Scan code with camera or visit signup.formed.org
Enter "Medicine Hat" click on "Holy Family"

FORMED
FAITH AT HOME

Faithfully
FAITH. LIVED. FULLY.

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

20th Anniversary Breakfast
Dec 29, 2024
After 8:30 & 10:30 Masses
Omelets, Sausage
Patties, Hash Browns,
Toast, Fruit, etc.
**& THE BEST FELLOWSHIP
EVER!**
Free Will Offering going to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul



The Catholic Women's League
Holy Family Parish

The CWL would like to thank all who donated baking or gave a donation to our Annual Christmas Bake Sale and helped make it such a success.

The winners of the Raffles were: Lynn O'Byrne, Gladys Leismester, Rita Darr, and Gwen Nelson.

Merry Christmas and all the best in 2025.

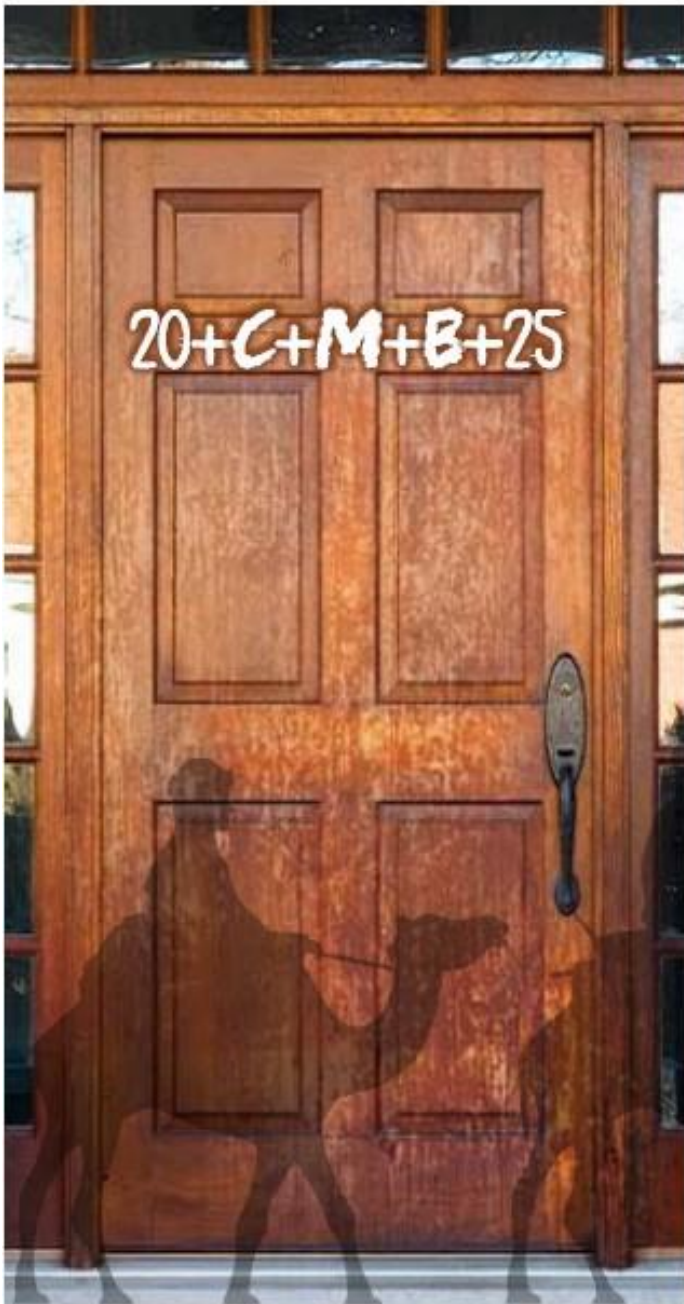
KIDS, make sure you check out the online bulletin and print the 12 pages of fun activities and stories for you at www.holyfamilymb.ca/bulletins/

Epiphany House Blessing "20+C+M+B+25"

"Chalking of the door" is a wonderful family activity and spiritual practice, invoking the God's blessing and protection on all who live/work/visit the home or business. Write "20+C+M+B+25" anywhere on your front door, typically at the top, with blessed chalk.

The 20 is the first two numbers of the year, C for Caspar, M for Melchior, & B for Balthasar and 25 stands for the last two numbers of the year.

Chalk will be blessed January 4 & 5 at Mass. Bring your own chalk (any color) or some will be provided for those who need some.



Epiphany House Blessing Prayer Examples

Holy God, (I/we) ask your blessing on this entrance and home and upon all who live here (work/visit here). May they be blessed in ways that will be nourishing to their body, mind and spirit. May peace dwell in this home. May laughter and joy be experienced. May kindness, patience, thoughtfulness, and respect be present in conversations and actions. And may All That Is Good be present in the waking and sleeping of all who dwell herein. AMEN

Or

May all who enter this door be welcomed with peace and loving kindness. May all who leave this door be blessed and manifest the peace and loving kindness wherever they go. AMEN.

Or

Make one as you please!

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



SHE SHALL BE CALLED WOMAN

A PROGRAM FOR ALL WOMEN BY
PARADISE DEI

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.





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**



MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS'
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

AGM MEETING



TUESDAY
JANUARY 21, 2025



7:00 P.M.



MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC SCHOOL
BOARD OFFICE
1251 1 AVE SW

**ALL PUBLIC ARE
WELCOME TO ATTEND**





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.



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

DECEMBER 22, 2024

ENCOUNTER OF LOVE

Following is the story by Nance Gavin explaining to us about true spirit of Christmas and why Jesus is the reason of the season...

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years or so. It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas--oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it--overspending... the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma---the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else. Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was wrestling at the junior level at the school he attended; and shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes. As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears.

It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford. Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. And as each of their boys got up from the mat, he swaggered around in his tatters with false bravado, a kind of street pride that couldn't acknowledge defeat. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them."

Mike loved kids - all kids - and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came. That afternoon, I went to a local

sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed the envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done and that this was his gift from me. His smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year and in succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition--one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on. The envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning and our children, ignoring their new toys, would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents.

As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the envelope never lost its allure. The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree, and in the morning, it was joined by three more.

Each of our children, unbeknownst to the others, had placed an envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down the envelope. Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit, will always be with us. May we all remember Christ, who is the reason for the season, and the true Christmas spirit this year and always.

We have come to the completion of our Advent Season as we light the 4th Candle which opens our hearts and minds to reflect on the theme of Love. The season of Advent basically is a time to reflect on the journey of Divine becoming Human as St. John says, "He became flesh and dwelt among us". This journey started right before the creation of the world as Jesus said, "he was even before the world was created" and the author of Letter to Hebrews testifies in this way "Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds". St. Mother Teresa once asked "At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."

God is faithful to His promises. The first reading from prophet Micah gives assurance to the Jews that God is faithful to His promises and that from the unimportant village of Bethlehem He will send them the long-expected ruler. From something insignificant, God brings out something significant. It doesn't matter how insignificant your good deeds are, God always treasures them and makes something meaningful out of them. So be positive minded and never to be discouraged in doing what little you can for others, in this period of Christmas. In the eyes of God nothing is little or useless because it has the power to raise the lowly and send rich away empty. By the birth of the Lord, a city which has no name or reputation became the center of everyone's life: "The Lord says to his people: "You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah who are one of the little clans of Judea, from you shall

come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days”.

The following story though I have shared before but seems so appropriate to this Sunday's liturgy that I am compelled to share with all of you. This story shows that we must bring Jesus to other people as Blessed Virgin Mary did in the Gospel.

Every Sunday afternoon, after the morning service at their church, the Pastor and his 11-year-old son would go out into their town and hand out Gospel tracts. This Sunday afternoon, as it came time for the Pastor and his son to go to the streets with their tracts, it was very cold outside as well as pouring down rain. The boy bundled up in his warmest and driest clothes and said, "Okay Dad, I'm ready."

His Pastor Dad asked, "Ready for what?"

"Dad, it's time we gather our tracts together and go out."

Dad responds, "Son, it's very cold outside, and it's pouring down rain."

The boy gives his dad a surprised look, asking, "But Dad, aren't people still going to Hell, even though it's raining?"

Dad answers, "Son, I am not going out in this weather."

Despondently the boy asks, "Dad, can I go? Please?"

His father hesitated for a moment but said, "You can go. Here are the tracts; be careful, son."

"Thanks Dad!"

And with that, he was off and out into the rain. This 11-year-old boy walked the streets of the town, going door-to-door and handing everybody he met in the street a Gospel tract. After hours of walking in the rain, he was soaking bone-chilled wet and down to his very last tract. He stopped on a corner and looked for someone to hand a tract to, but the streets were totally deserted.

Then, he turned toward the first home he saw and started up the sidewalk to the front door and rang the doorbell. He rang the bell, but nobody answered. He rang it again and again, but still no one answered. He waited, but still no answer. Finally, this 11-year-old trooper turned to leave, but something stopped him. Again, he turned to the door and rang the bell and knocked loudly on the door with his fist. He waited, something holding him there on the front porch. He rang again, and this time the door slowly opened. Standing in the doorway was a very sad looking elderly lady.

She softly asked, "What can I do for you, son?"

With radiant eyes and a smile that lit up her world, this little boy said, "Ma'am, I'm sorry if I disturbed you, but I just want to tell you that JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU! I came to give you my very last Gospel tract which will tell you all about Jesus and His great love." With that, he handed her his last tract and turned to leave. She called to him as he departed, "Thank you, son! And God bless you!"

The following Sunday morning in church, Pastor Dad was in the pulpit and as the service began, he asked, "Does anybody have a testimony or want to say anything?"

Slowly, in the back row of the church, an elderly lady stood to her feet. As she began to speak, a look of glorious radiance came from her face. "None of you in this church know

me. I've never been here before. Before last Sunday, I was not a Christian. My husband passed on some time ago, leaving me totally alone in this world. Last Sunday, being a particularly cold and rainy day, it was even more so in my heart as I came to the end of the line where I no longer had any hope or will to live.

"So, I took a rope and a chair and ascended the stairway into the attic of my home. I fastened the rope securely to a rafter in the roof then stood on the chair and fastened the other end of the rope around my neck. Standing on that chair, so lonely and broken-hearted, I was about to leap off. When suddenly, the loud ringing of my doorbell downstairs startled me. I thought, 'I'll wait a minute, and whoever it is will go away.' I waited and waited, but the ringing doorbell seemed to get more insistent and then the person ringing also started knocking loudly. I thought to myself again, 'Who on earth could this be?! Nobody ever rings my bell or comes to see me!' I loosened the rope from my neck and started for the front door. All the while, the bell rang louder and louder. When I opened the door and looked, I could hardly believe my eyes! There on my front porch was the most radiant and angelic little boy I had ever seen in my life! His smile! Oh, I could never describe it to you! And the words that came from his mouth caused my heart, that had long been dead, to leap to life as he exclaimed with a cherub-like voice, 'Ma'am, I just came to tell you that JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU.' Then he gave me this Gospel tract that I now hold in my hand. As the little angel disappeared back out into the cold and rain, I closed my door and read slowly every word of this Gospel tract. Then, I went up to my attic to get my rope and chair. I wouldn't be needing them anymore."

"You see, I am now a happy child of the King, and since the address of your church was on the back of this Gospel tract, I have come here to personally say, 'Thank you to God's little angel who came just in the nick of time and by so doing, spared my soul from an eternity in Hell.'" There were now no dry eyes in the church. As shouts of praise and honor to the King resounded off the very rafters of the building, Pastor Dad descended from the pulpit to the front pew where the little angel was seated. He took him in his arms and sobbed uncontrollably. Do we bring Jesus to others?

The second reading encourages to give thanks to Christ who offered the sacrifice of perfect obedience that liberated us from sin. At Christmas, we celebrate that unique sacrificial gift of Christ to the world. May our lives be sacrificial in this period of Christmas to reciprocate God's gift of himself to us. Christmas brings so much to cherish and share our own memories. But one thing I think that can be said about Christmas, and maybe this is the right Sunday to say it, is that Christmas is a day that has a certain kind of atmosphere about it. It creates its own atmosphere. because of all the commercialization going on. And yet the playing of the carols, and all the beautiful ornaments, and things like that, lighten our hearts and are part of the season.

Also, it's a time when we look forward to large family get togethers, perhaps, or old friends coming and exchanging greetings. There are so many people and groups who are trying to promote and encourage people to "Keep Christ in Christmas" which unfortunately is being replaced by Happy Holiday Season. However, Christmas has its own

atmosphere, and the atmosphere, at its best, is an atmosphere of kindness, love, acceptance, forgiveness, and compassion.

This is by unknown author for understand the true meaning of love during this season of Christmas...

As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor, and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer. It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me. As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago. At first people seemed to understand and were thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, so many do not know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have lots of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration. I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honor. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, beautifully wrapped gifts. But do you want to know something? I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honor, and they didn't remember to send me an invitation. The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside they closed the door in my face, and I wanted to be with them and share their table.

In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years many close their doors to me. Since I wasn't invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner. They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a grand time. To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling Ho-Ho-Ho! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying: "Santa Claus, Santa Claus" as if the party were in his honor! At midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and do you know no one hugged me. Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me. What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts, and you did not get one? I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left. Every year it gets worse. People only remember the gifts, the parties, to eat and drink, and nobody remembers me.

I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter your life. I would like that you recognize the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you. Today, I only want that you believe this with all your heart. I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party. I'm still making the final arrangements.

Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend, I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party.

Those who don't answer the invite will be left outside. Be prepared because when all is ready you will be part of my great party.

See you soon. I Love you! Jesus

I truly believe that this is impossible to achieve unless Christ becomes the center of our Christmas celebration. What should we do to bring Jesus in Christmas? I believe we can walk today with Blessed Virgin Mary. The Gospel of this Fourth Sunday of Advent focuses on the figure of Mary, the Virgin Mother, expecting the birth of Jesus, the Saviour of the world. Let us fix our gaze upon her, a model of faith and of charity; and we can ask ourselves: what were her thoughts in the months while she was expecting? The answer comes precisely from today's Gospel passage, the narrative of Mary's visit to her elderly relative Elizabeth. The Angel Gabriel had revealed that Elizabeth was expecting a son and was already in her sixth month. So, the Virgin, who had just conceived Jesus by the power of God, set out with haste for Nazareth, in Galilee, to reach the mountains of Judea, and visit her cousin. What a wonderful gesture by Mother Mary to bring Jesus to Elizabeth and John? Do we bring Jesus to other?

Reflecting on the great Mystery of Christmas Saint Irenaeus, bishop and martyr once wrote "God is man's glory. Man is the vessel which receives God's action and all his wisdom and power. Just as a doctor is judged in his care for the sick, so God is revealed in his conduct with men. That is Paul's reason for saying: God has made the whole world prisoner of unbelief that he may have mercy on all. He was speaking of man, who was disobedient to God, and cast off from immortality, and then found mercy, receiving through the Son of God the adoption he brings. If man, without being puffed up or boastful, has a right belief regarding created things and their divine Creator, who, having given them being, holds them all in his power, and if man perseveres in God's love, and in obedience and gratitude to him, he will receive greater glory from him. It will be a glory which will grow ever brighter until he takes on the likeness of the one who died for him".

The Blessed Virgin was the first disciple of Jesus who introduced Jesus to other even before he was born. St. Irenaeus continues to strengthen this mystery "He was who took on the likeness of sinful flesh, to condemn sin and rid the flesh of sin, as now condemned. He wanted to invite man to take on his likeness, appointing man an imitator of God, establishing man in a way of life in obedience to the Father that would lead to the vision of God, and endowing man with power to receive the Father. He is the Word of God who dwelt with man and became the Son of Man to open the way for man to receive God, for God to dwell with man, according to the will of the Father. For this reason, the Lord himself gave us the sign of our salvation, the one who was born of the Virgin, Emmanuel. It was the Lord himself who saved them, for of themselves they had no power to be saved. For this reason, Paul speaks of the weakness of man and says: I know that no good dwells in my flesh, meaning that the blessing of our salvation comes not from us but from God. Again, he says: I am a wretched man; who will free me from this body doomed to die? Then he speaks of a liberator, thanks to Jesus Christ our Lord".

The Blessed Virgin Mary is greeted back and is being congratulated by Elizabeth: “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”. And she immediately lauds Mary’s faith: “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord”. The contrast is obvious between Mary, who had faith, and Zechariah, Elizabeth’s husband, who doubted, and did not believe the angel’s promise and therefore is left dumb until John’s birth. It is a contrast.

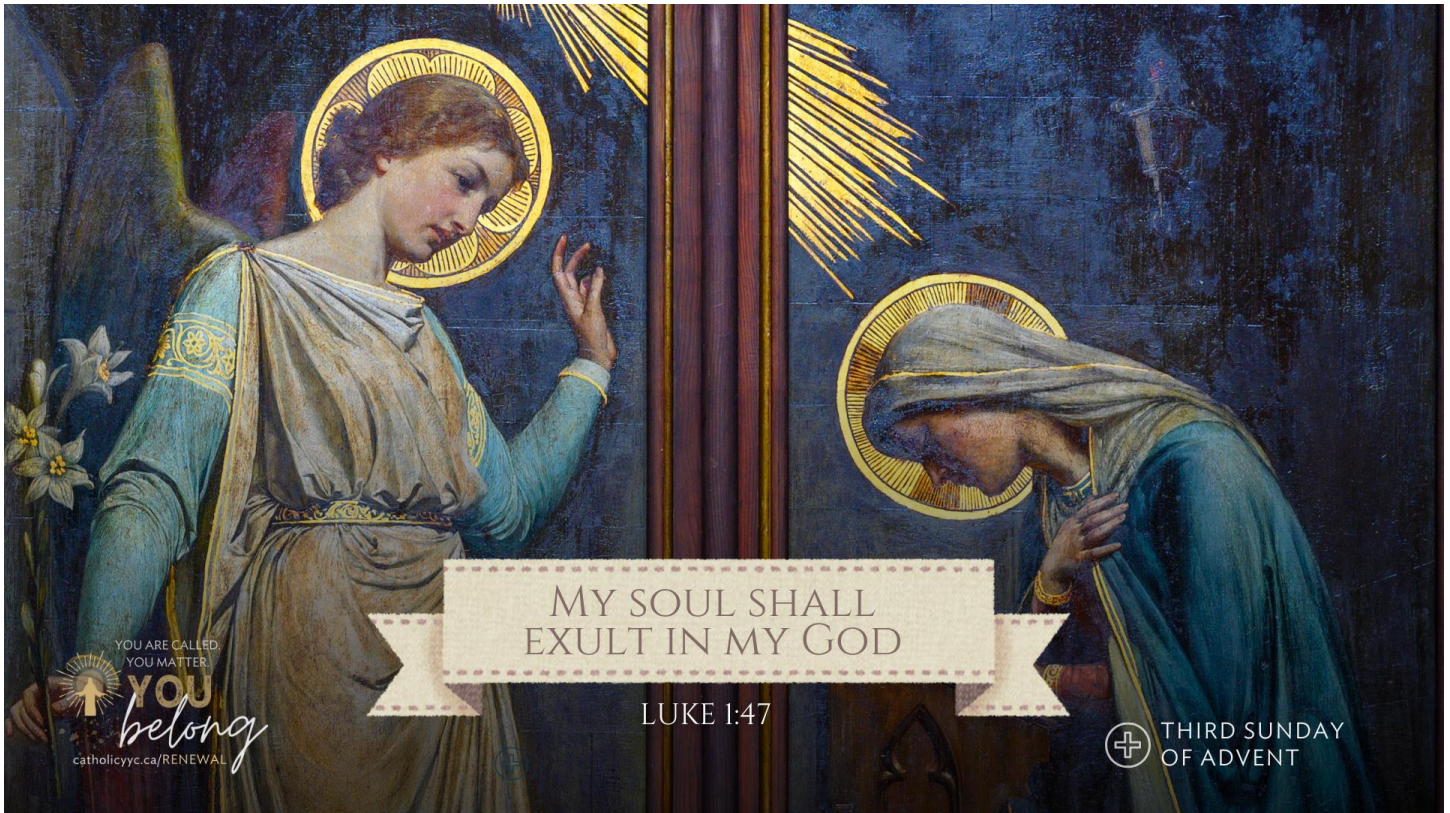
Holy Father Pope Francis says “This episode helps us to interpret the mystery of man’s encounter with God in a very special light. An encounter that is not characterized by astonishing miracles, but rather, is characterized by faith and charity. Indeed, Mary is blessed because she believed: the encounter with God is the fruit of faith”. Blessed Virgin Mary’s visit to Elizabeth, prepares us today to experience God’s presence in our lives and bring him to other people. Let’s bring Jesus to others during this Christmas season to experience his love as we light the 4th Candle of Advent. Come Lord Jesus and fill our hearts with your everlasting Love, Amen.

How do we encounter Jesus to experience is divine love?



DIOCESAN SUNDAY UPDATES

The Christmas Season



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.*"

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.

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 catholiccyc.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!

O Holy Night

Join St. Francis Xavier Chaplaincy for a night of choral music, prayer, and the blessing of nativity scenes by the True Relic of the Cross at Our Lady of the

Assumption Church, Calgary. When: **Sat, Dec 21 | 7 pm**. Arrive at 6:30 pm to set up your nativity scene or join the procession later. Bring a prayer intention to place during the ceremony.

National Visitation of the Relics of St. Jean de Brebeuf and of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

The relics of St. Jean de Brebeuf and St. Kateri will be visiting the Diocese of Calgary! When: **Sat, Jan 4, 2025** - Mass: 9 am (with Fr John O'Brien) and 5 pm (with Bishop McGrattan) at St. Albert the Great, Calgary.

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

Become a catechist in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program for children aged 3–6 and help nurture their relationship with God through hands-on, retreat-style faith formation. Training Course will be offered at **Ascension Catholic Parish, Calgary, on February 13–18 (Part A) and July 14–19 (Part B), 2025. Register by January 10, 2025**, at cgsac.ca/courses-1. 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. Mary's Cathedral](#) - Thu, Jan 2 at 5 pm (Mass) to Sat, Jan 4 at 9 am (Mass)
- [St. Luke's, Calgary](#) - Fri, Jan 10 at 8:30 am to Sun, Jan 12 at 8:15 am
- [St. Anthony's, Calgary](#) - Fri, Feb 7 at 3 pm to Sun, Feb 9 at 7 am (Chapel)

Grief Share Program

St. Michael's Catholic Community invites those grieving the loss of a loved one to an 8-week Grief Share program, featuring video seminars, group discussions, and a personal workbook. When: **Tuesdays, Tue, Jan 14 to Mar 4 | 7-9 pm**. Free will offering; \$20 for the workbook. To register, contact the Parish Office at 403-249-0423.

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!

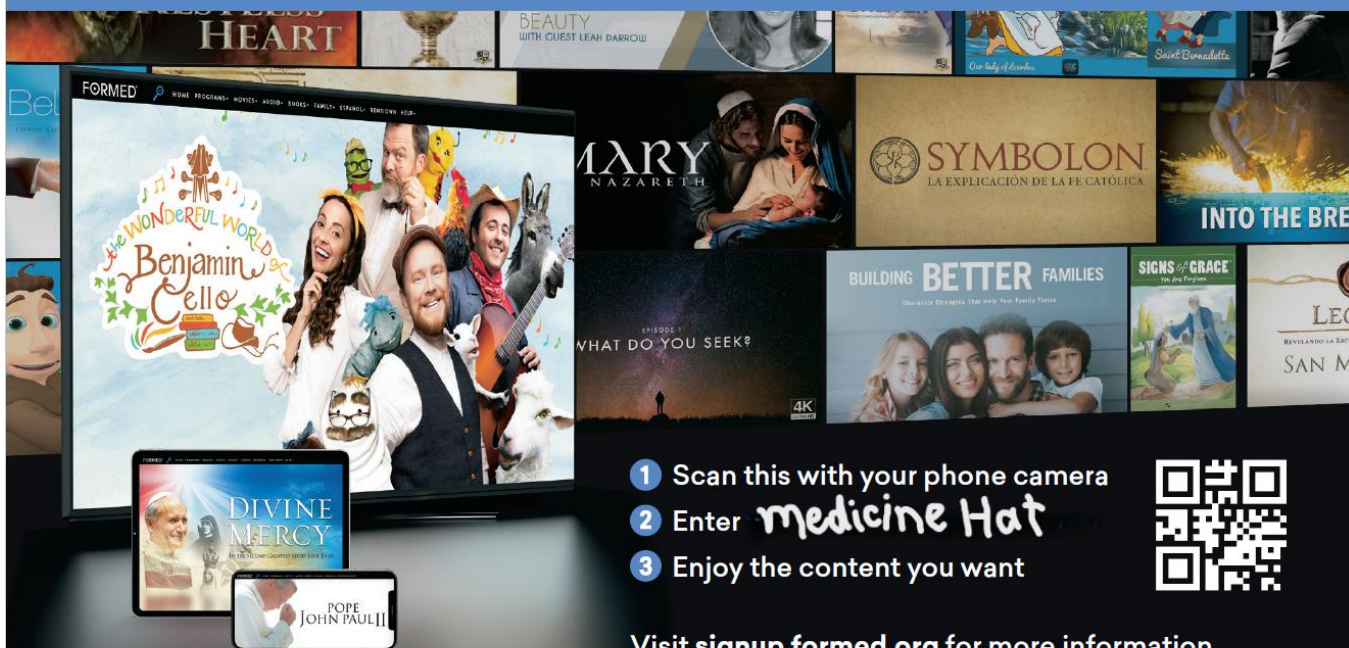
Ablaze Youth Ministry: Gather at St. Bonaventure Parish on **Fri, Jan 17, 2025, 7–9 pm** for fellowship and prayer.

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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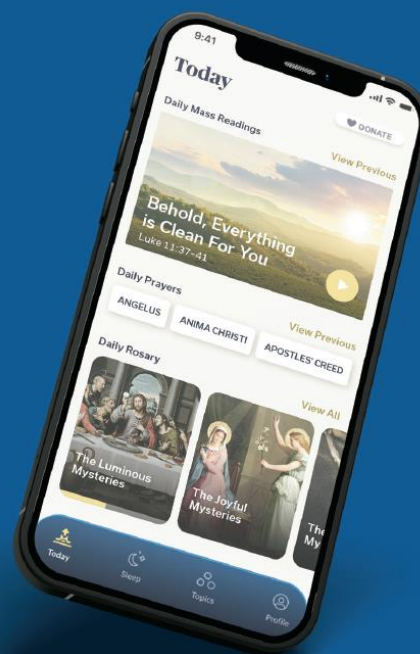
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An offering from the  AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

Joe McKinnon Council #9502

Knights of Columbus 2024 2025 Officers

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



2024 2025 Knights Events

Date	Activity
Sunday, 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22nd, 2024



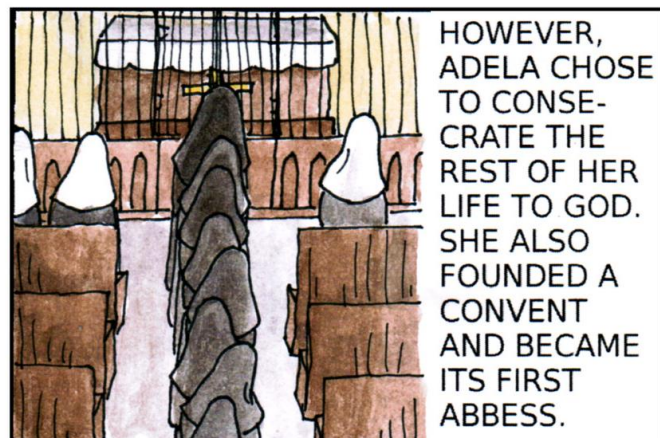
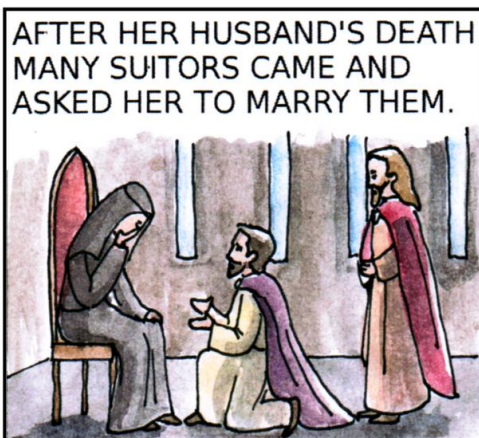
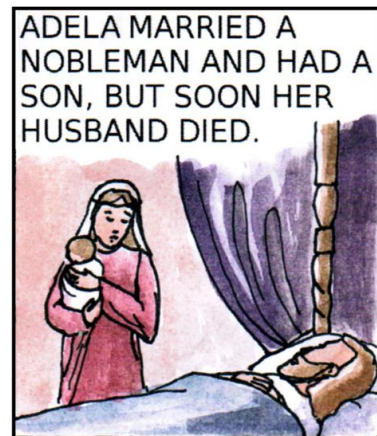
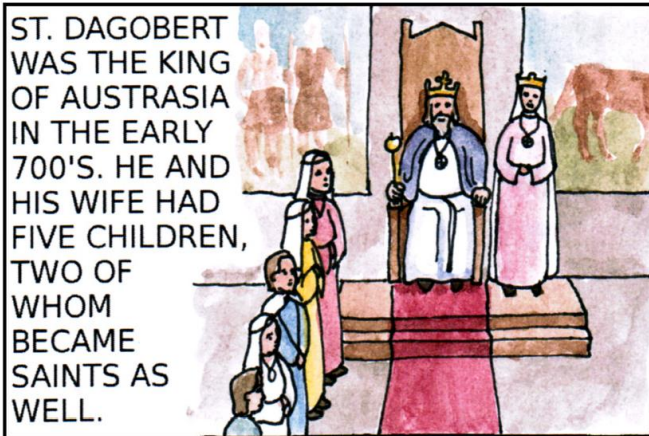
*Elizabeth knew that Mary was the mother of the Messiah.
What did she say to Mary when she came to visit her?*

Use the code to find out!

A	B	D	E	G	L	M	N	O	R	S	U	W	Y
▲	◊	○	↑	△	×	-	◻	●	+	!	■	↓	♀

Saints Adela and Irmina

December 24



IRMINA AND ADELA WERE BOTH PRINCESSES, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY WERE SPOILED AND SELFISH. THEIR GOOD PARENTS RAISED THEM TO LOVE GOD. WE CAN LEARN FROM THEIR EXAMPLE THAT FAMILIES CAN HELP EACH OTHER TO BECOME HOLY PEOPLE. HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR FAMILY?

Mary Visits Elizabeth True or False?

*How well do you know the story of the Visitation?
See if you can figure out which are true and which are false!*

1. Mary was expecting baby Jesus when she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

True or False?

2. Elizabeth was married to Jeremiah.

True or False?

3. Elizabeth was a bit sad when she saw Mary. True or False?

4. When Elizabeth heard Mary, her baby inside her jumped. True or False?

5. Elizabeth's baby was Saint John the Baptist. True or False?

6. Mary had to tell Elizabeth that she was going to have a baby because Elizabeth didn't know. True or False?

7. Elizabeth knew that Mary's baby was the Messiah. True or False?



Christmas is Almost Here!



Now it's only a few days until Jesus' birthday! Are you all ready for it? If you have an Advent wreath then this is the week that all the candles will be lit. Jesus is coming soon, so the light should be getting very bright!

Do you have a Christmas tree? Do you know what it represents? A long time ago people used to have plays at Christmas time about how Adam and Eve sinned when they ate the fruit from the tree, and how Jesus was born to save us from that sin. So a Christmas tree is there to remind us of why Jesus came.



Does your family have a nativity scene? It should be all ready for Christmas, but the Baby Jesus doesn't get put in the manger until Christmas Eve!



Answer to front page puzzle: Blessed are you among women! Answer to True or False: 1.true, 2.false, 3.false, 4.true, 5.true, 6.false, 7.true.

The Kids' Bulletin

*Christmas Day and
Feast of the Holy Family
December 25 & 29, 2024*



There wasn't any room for Mary and Joseph to stay in Bethlehem, so they had to go to a stable outside the town. Can you help them find their way?



The Christmas Story

LONG AGO GOD SENT AN ANGEL TO MARY, WHO WAS A YOUNG WOMAN OF HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE. HE TOLD HER SHE WOULD BE THE MOTHER OF THE MESSIAH.



MARY WAS ENGAGED TO A HOLY MAN CALLED JOSEPH. AN ANGEL APPEARED TO HIM TO TELL HIM WHO MARY REALLY WAS.

God has chosen Mary...



THEY GOT MARRIED AND JOSEPH TOOK GOOD CARE OF MARY.



THEN THE EMPEROR SENT EVERYONE TO THEIR HOME TOWNS TO BE REGISTERED.

SO JOSEPH AND MARY HAD TO TRAVEL ALL THE WAY TO BETHLEHEM.



WHEN THEY GOT THERE, THEY FOUND NO PLACE TO STAY EXCEPT A STABLE. SO THE BABY WAS BORN THERE!



THEN ANGELS CAME AND ANNOUNCED TO SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELDS THAT THE MESSIAH WAS BORN, SO THEY FOUND THE BABY AND WORSHIPPED HIM.

FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR GOD TO SEND THEM A MESSIAH WHO WOULD SAVE THEM FROM THEIR SINS. FINALLY HE CAME, A POOR BABY BORN ON A COLD NIGHT. SEE HOW MUCH GOD LOVES US, THAT HE WOULD COME TO US AS A TINY, INNOCENT BABY! HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!

The Holy Family Puzzle

*Unscramble the letters to fill in the blanks.
Use the letters in boxes to fill in the blanks with
numbers part-way down.*

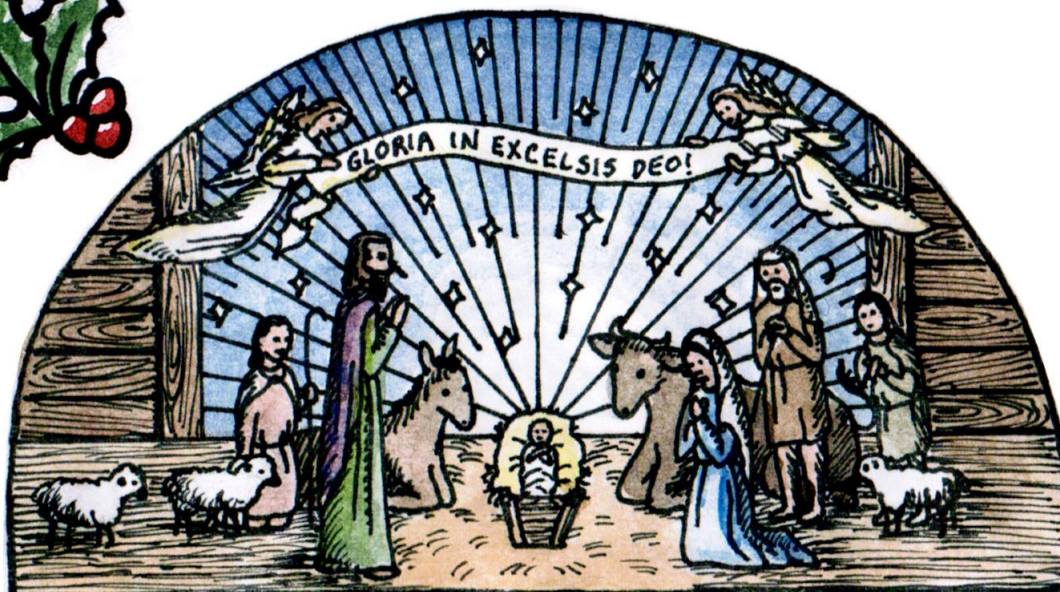
Every year Jesus and His _____¹²_____ (NTSPRAE) went to Jerusalem for the _____²_____ (SVOPSARE) festival. When _____¹⁰_____ (SUJES) was twelve, they went to the _____³_____ (LFSETVIA) as usual, but Jesus stayed in the _____⁵_____ (MPELET) afterwards. _____⁶_____ (RMYA) and Joseph thought He was with their relatives in the caravan, but when they couldn't _____¹_____ (DNIF) Him they went back and _____⁷_____ (CHDEASRE) for Him. On the _____⁸_____ (HDRIT) day they found him. When they asked Jesus why He had done this, He replied, "Did you not _____⁹_____ (WNKO) that I must be in my

_____¹_____²_____³_____⁴_____⁵_____⁶_____⁷_____⁸_____⁹_____¹⁰_____¹¹_____¹²

Then he went home with them to

_____⁴_____ (ZRNATHEA) and was obedient to them, and grew up in _____¹¹_____ (DSIWMO) and age and grace.





Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Today we celebrate Jesus' Birthday!

For many years people had been waiting for God to send them a Messiah who would save them from their sins. When the time was right God Himself became a Baby and was born of the beautiful and holy virgin Mary. His name was Jesus, and today is His birthday!

What do you do on Christmas? Is it a big celebration? Do you think about whose birthday it is? Jesus gave Himself to us because He loved us. What can you do to show your family that you love them?

Answers to Holy Family puzzle: parents, Passover, Jesus, festival, Temple, Mary, find, searched, third, know, FATHER'S HOUSE, Nazareth, wisdom

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The Kids' Bulletin

Mary the Mother of God: January 1st, 2025

&

Feast of the Epiphany: January 5 or 6, 2025



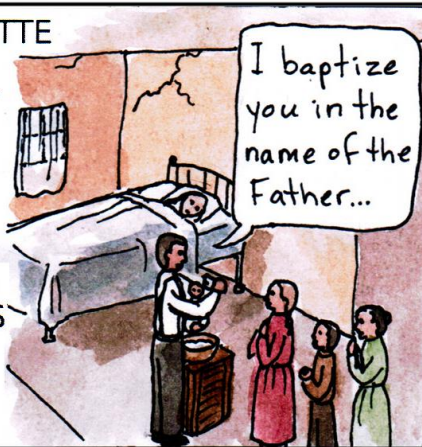
*The feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord
is a special part of the Christmas season!
What are we celebrating on this feast?*

Connect the dots to find out!

Saint André Bessette

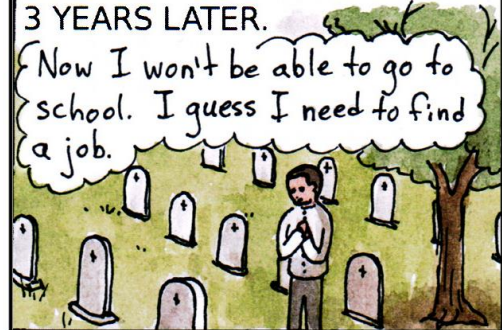
January 7*

ALFRED BESSETTE WAS BORN TO A POOR FAMILY OUTSIDE OF MONTREAL IN 1845. HE WAS SO SICKLY WHEN HE WAS BORN THAT HIS PARENTS BAPTIZED HIM RIGHT AWAY.



WHEN ALFRED WAS 9 HIS FATHER DIED IN A LOGGING ACCIDENT. HIS MOTHER DIED 3 YEARS LATER.

Now I won't be able to go to school. I guess I need to find a job.



ALFRED WAS ALWAYS SICKLY. AFTER TRYING MANY JOBS HE BECAME A RELIGIOUS AND TOOK THE NAME ANDRÉ.

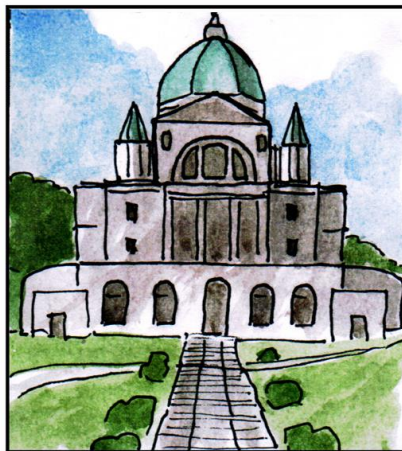
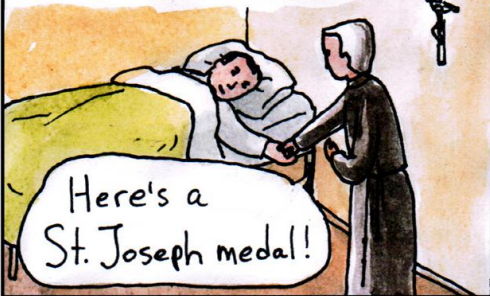


BECAUSE HE WASN'T EDUCATED, HIS JOB WAS ANSWERING THE COLLEGE DOOR.

BR. ANDRÉ HAD GREAT DEVOTION TO SAINT JOSEPH. MANY PEOPLE WERE CURED BY HIS PRAYERS.



THOUSANDS CAME TO TALK TO HIM. HE WAS VERY KIND TO THEM ALL. HE WOULD ALSO GO TO VISIT THE SICK.



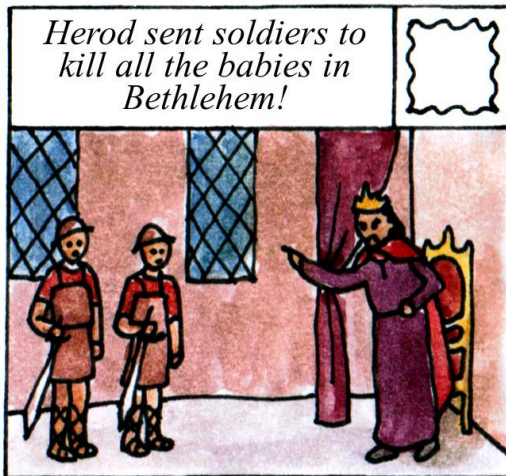
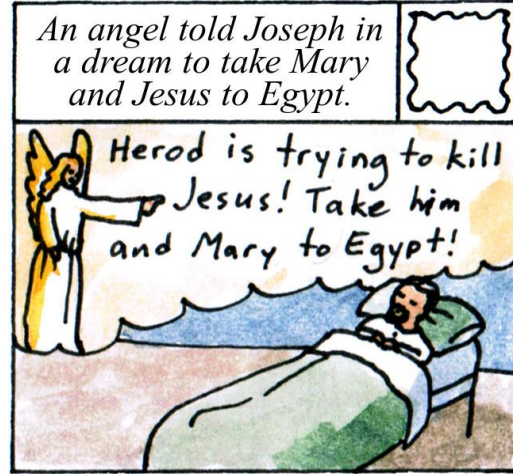
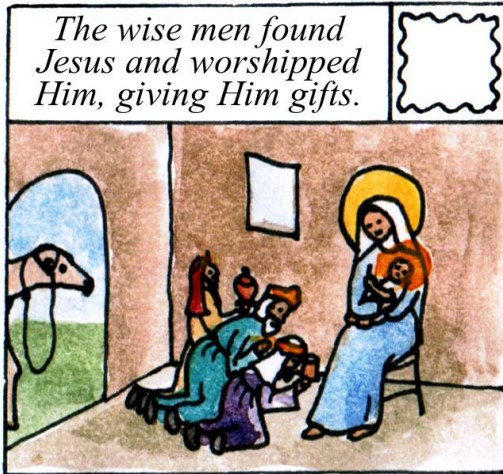
BR. ANDRÉ GOT PERMISSION TO HAVE A CHAPEL, THE ORATORY OF ST. JOSEPH, BUILT ON THE HILL IN MONTREAL. HE DIED BEFORE IT WAS FINISHED, AT AGE 92.

SAINT ANDRÉ WAS A SIMPLE MAN WHO COULD HARDLY EVEN WRITE HIS OWN NAME. BUT HIS DEVOTION TO SAINT JOSEPH AND LOVE FOR THE PEOPLE MADE EVERYONE LOVE AND TRUST HIM. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIS EXAMPLE THAT WE CAN HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE SAINTS, ESPECIALLY ST. JOSEPH!

**His feast is January 7th in Canada, and January 6th in the U.S.*

The Wise Men Puzzle

*Do you know the story of the wise men
who came to worship Baby Jesus?
What order do these pictures go in?
Write the numbers from 1 to 6 in the boxes.*



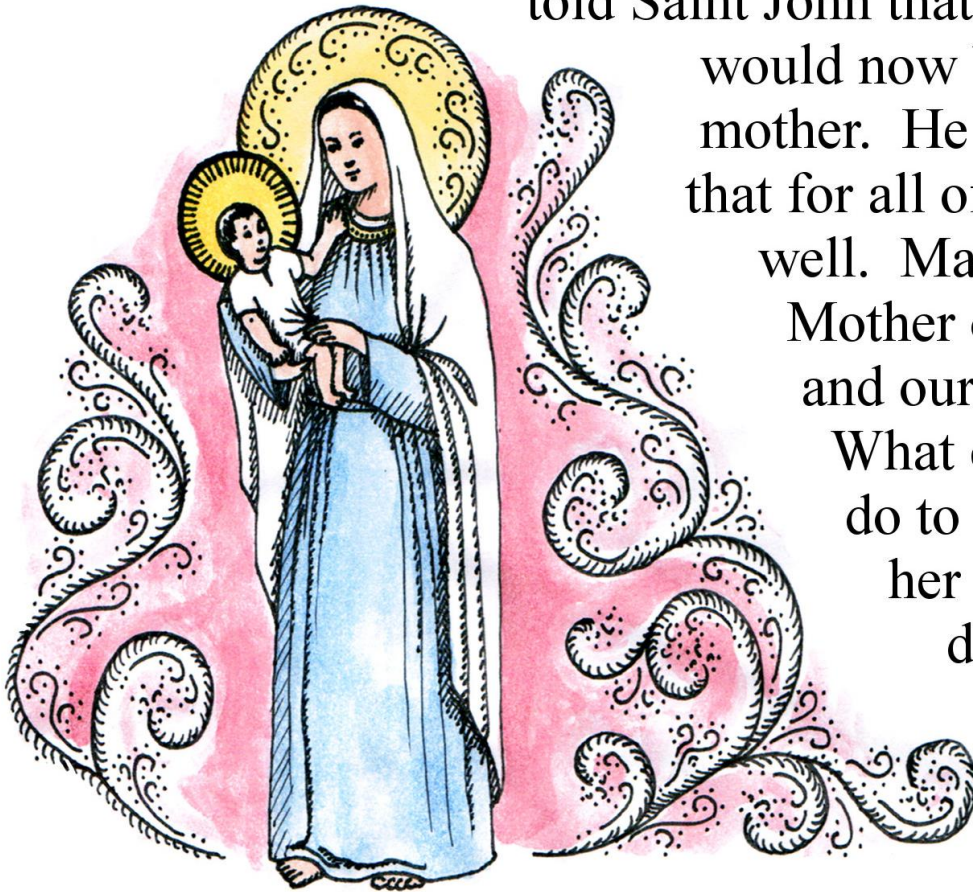
Mary the Mother of God

January 1

On the first day of the year we celebrate the feast day of Mary, the Mother of God.

If you didn't have a mother and God let you design your own mother, what would she be like? Well, God did get to make His own Mother! Can you even imagine how perfect she was?

When Jesus was dying on the Cross, he told Saint John that Mary would now be his mother. He meant that for all of us as well. Mary is the Mother of God and our Mother! What can you do to celebrate her special day?



Answers to the Wise Men Puzzle:
Top: 3, 6. Middle: 5, 1. Bottom: 2, 4.



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Guide your teens to real, satisfying answers about their life and the person of Jesus Christ now with The Search Begins.

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BEGINS

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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 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.