

# HOLY FAMILY PARISH

5/12/2013 The Ascension Of The Lord



1451 Strachan Road SE,  
Medicine Hat, AB T1B-4V3

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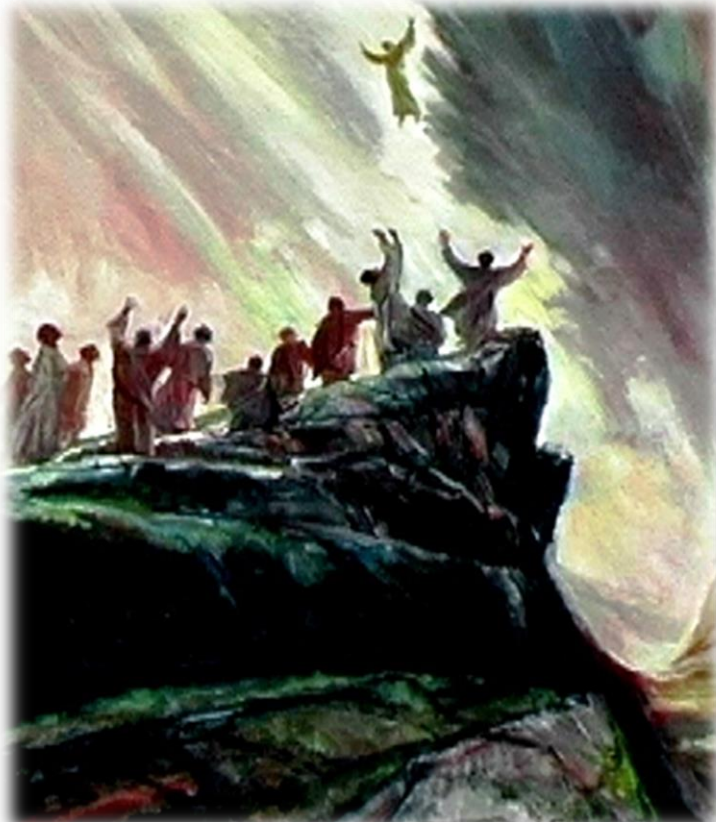
email: [contact@holyfamilymh.ca](mailto:contact@holyfamilymh.ca)

website: [www.holyfamilymh.ca](http://www.holyfamilymh.ca)

Office Hrs: Monday to Friday - 8:30am to 4:30pm

Closed on Statutory Holidays

Calgary Diocesan: [www.rcdiocese-calgary.ab.ca](http://www.rcdiocese-calgary.ab.ca)



**Pastor** - Rev. Philip Le - [frphilip@holyfamilymh.ca](mailto:frphilip@holyfamilymh.ca)

**Associate Pastor** - Rev. Matthew Emmelkamp

[fmatthew@holyfamilymh.ca](mailto:fmatthew@holyfamilymh.ca)

**Deacons:**

**Rev. Mr. Robert Risling & Rev. Mr. Bill Schnitzler**

*Pastoral Care of the Sick – 403-580-9266*

**Youth NET Ministry**

[medhatcatholicyouth@gmail.com](mailto:medhatcatholicyouth@gmail.com)

Medicine Hat Catholic Youth on Facebook

**Mass Times**

**Saturday - 5:00 pm**

**Sunday - 8:30am, 10:30am & 6:00pm**

**Reconciliation: Saturday 3:00-4:00pm**

Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 28.19, 20)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Go, make disciples of all nations;

I am with you always,

to the end of the age.

**Alleluia.**

**Welcome To Holy Family Parish**

*You have entered this church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. Being a human, you enter this church as a creature of God; as a baptized person, you enter it as a son or daughter of the Father in Christ. This house of God is therefore your family home. Come in then with humility of mind, joy of heart and thanks on your lips. Acknowledge the Lord's presence in the Tabernacle and adore Him. Come in and pause in prayer in the midst of your busy life and its many worries. Be grateful for those who, for the Glory of God, built this place of worship with faith and sacrifice, and sanctified it with their songs and prayers.*

*Anyone who wishes to practice the Catholic faith by attending this church may consider this parish as his/her own parish. You simply need to register. Please indicate whether you are a new parishioner or have moved and are providing a new address. Thank you.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_



# ***THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD***

**MAY 11/12, 2013**

## **SUNDAY READINGS**

**First Reading** (Acts 1:1-11). We have two descriptions of the Ascension in today's liturgy, both from the pen of St Luke. This one, from Acts, is the more elaborate. Its special message is that, while we are waiting for Jesus to return and take us to himself with the Father, we have to do his work here on earth, by living and spreading his message of hope and love.

**Second Reading** (Ephesians 1:17-23). The same divine power that raised Jesus up to his Father's right hand will raise us also to share the rich glories of his inheritance with God.

**The Gospel** (Luke 24:46-53). The special message of this account of the Ascension is that Jesus is pledged to return and be with us, not just at life's end, but also throughout our lives, in the power of his Holy Spirit.

## **OPERATING FINANCES**

**(May 2<sup>nd</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013)**

<b>-Cost to operate our Parish (Budget 2013)</b>	<b>\$15,600</b>
<b>-General Collections:</b>	<b>\$12,524</b>
<b>-Debt reduction (Mortgage)</b>	<b>\$2,753</b>
<b>-Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$15,277</b>
<b>-Exceed or (Shortfall)</b>	<b>(\$323)</b>

### **Special Collections**

***TIA/Peace&Developemnet:.....	\$1,810
***World Missions:.....	\$37
***Priests Retirement Fund:.....	\$35
***Seminary Fund: .....	\$285
*** Holy Land: .....	\$5
***Pope Pastoral Works:.....	\$1,440
***St Vincent de Paul:.....	\$970
***CARO:.....	\$65
***Mission Mexico:.....	\$100
***NET Ministries:.....	\$30

## **PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS & INTENTIONS**

*DAILY MASS MAY BE CANCELLED IN THE CASE OF A FUNERAL*

### **SUNDAY, MAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

#### **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

- + **Mass: 8:30am** (Intention: Donna & Keith Crush & Family and Lolita Pascua San-Pedro ☩)
- + Library: open after morning Masses
- + 1<sup>st</sup> Communion\Reconciliation Class:10:15am in the Faith Room
- + **Mass: 10:30am** (Intention: Holy Family Parish)
- + 2 Baptisms at 10:30 Mass
- + Children's Liturgy at 10:30 Mass
- + **Mass: 6:00pm** (Intention: Debbie Gerrard ☩)
- + UNCHAINED after 6:00pm Mass in the HFP Hall

### **MONDAY, MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

- + Mass: 9:00am (Intention: Rod & Paula Rankin)
- + Knights Of Columbus #9502 Meeting: 7:00pm in Faith Room

### **TUESDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup>**

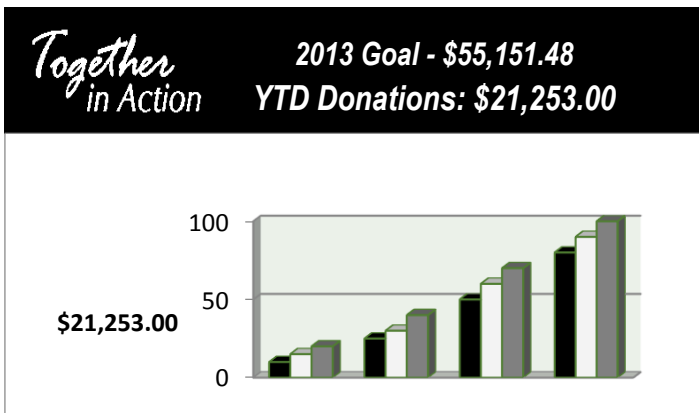
- + 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Appointments: 3:30pm – 6:30pm
- + SVDP Meeting: 4:00pm in the Hope Room
- + Centennial Mass Choir Practice: 4:15pm – 5:15pm
- + **Living Rosary: 6:30pm**
- + **Mass: 7:00pm** (Intention: Ignacio Tanutan ☩)
- + **Adoration after Mass until 8:30**
- + Light Weigh: 7:00pm in the Hope Room
- + CWL Meeting: after 7:00 Mass in the Faith Room

### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

- + Women's Praise & Worship: 6:45am in the Faith Room
- + **Mass: 8:15am** at Mother Teresa School
- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: Lorenzo Quimpan ☩)
- + Breakfast after Mass in Hall
- + Bible Study: 9:30am in the Faith Room
- + **Mass: 1:30pm** - Sunnyside
- + Ministry to the aged: 3:30pm – Good Samaritans
- + 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Appointments: 3:30pm – 6:30pm
- + Monsignor McCoy High School Grad Mass Rehearsal: 5:00pm
- + Choir Practice (6pm Mass): 6:00pm
- + RCIA 7:00pm in the Faith Room

### **THURSDAY, MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

- + Men's Prayer Group: 6:30am in the Charity Room
- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: Simar Pasamonte ☩)
- + Breakfast after Mass in Hall
- + Monsignor McCoy High School Grad Choir Rehearsal: 10:30am
- + Rosary Guild: 1:30pm in the Charity Room
- + **Monsignor McCoy High School Grad Mass: 3:30pm**
- + **Holy Hour: 6:00pm**



## **2013 TOGETHER IN ACTION –TIA-**

*"... You will be my witnesses... Acts: 1: 8).*

Please contribute to the Together in Action.

*Thank you for your Generosity and Support!*

- + Choir Practice for 8:30 & 10:30 Masses at 7:00pm
- + Live in Pray & Praise: 7:30pm in the Faith Room

## FRIDAY, MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

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- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: Phyllis Harty)
  - + **Adoration after Mass until noon.**
  - + Breakfast after Mass in Hall
  - + **Mass: 10:00am** – Meadowlands
  - + Ministry to the aged: 10:00am – The Wellington
  - + EQUIP: 7:00pm at St. Patrick's Parish
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## SATURDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>

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- + **Reconciliation 3:00 – 4:00pm**
- + Choir Practice for 5:00 Mass at 4:00pm

### PENTECOST SUNDAY

- + **Mass: 5:00pm** (Intention: Leroy Hammel ☩)
- + 1 Baptism at 5:00pm Mass
- + Library open before 5:00pm Mass

## SUNDAY, MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>

### PENTECOST SUNDAY

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- + **Mass: 8:30am** (Intention: Gwen Meding)
- + Library: open after morning Masses
- + **Mass: 10:30am** (Intention: Holy Family Parish)
- + 1 Baptism at 10:30 Mass
- + Children's Liturgy at 10:30 Mass
- + Baptism Class 1:00pm – 4:30pm
- + **Mass: 6:00pm** (Intention: Theresé Chrusch)
- + UNCHAINED after 6:00pm Mass in the HFP Hall



## NET TEAM NEWS

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**Equip Gr. 6-9 - LAST EQUIP NIGHT!** Join the NET Team for the last Equip Night before we leave! Get ready to have a blast as we end off this awesome year! Be there, Friday May 17th at St. Patrick's Parish from 7pm-9pm!

**Unchained Gr. 10-12 -** Have you ever thought that Faith and Science could never go together? Join us as we bust common myths about faith and science and find out what the Catholic Church says about how they work together! Sunday May 12th from 7pm-9pm at Holy Family Parish!

**LAST UNCHAINED NIGHT:** May 19th! Join the NET team for our last Unchained Night before we leave! Come out for a night of fun times and a chance to hang out and say goodbye! Be there, Sunday May 19th from 7pm-9pm at Holy Family Parish!

**Volunteers -** Interested in volunteering in Youth Ministry? The NET Team invites you to share your love for God and your gifts with the youth of our parish! There are a variety of different things that we would love your help with, including giving a talk, leading a game, or leading small group for our Middle School/High School youth groups or Family Fundays, or helping with set up or background work. If you feel like you could help in other ways, you also have the options to donate snacks for our events, offer your home to host members of the team, or pray for the ministry. We will be starting our Leadership Training Series very soon, so please contact us at [medhatcatholicyouth@gmail.com](mailto:medhatcatholicyouth@gmail.com) if you

are interested in volunteering **Goodbye and Thank You from The NET Team** Our year of ministry here in Medicine Hat is soon coming to a close, we will be heading out on May 23rd!

We have had an amazing year with all of you, it has a privilege getting to know you and becoming a part of your parish community! A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has supported us in our ministry in anyway, especially to our priests and deacons, to the Holy Family and St. Pat's Staff, to all of our amazing volunteers, to those families who have hosted us in their homes and have provided for us, to all of those who have constantly prayed for us and for the youth, and to all of the youth of the parish who have enriched our lives and shown us love. THANK YOU!

## PRAYERS FOR THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

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Join the Legion of Mary in praying the Rosary at Hillside Cemetery on Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm for the souls of your departed loved ones. Bring a flower to place on Mary's altar which you can later place on the grave of a loved one if you wish. Please bring your own lawn chair. For more information please call Helen at 403-527-2077 or email Karen-Anne at [kacherwono@shaw.ca](mailto:kacherwono@shaw.ca).

## COMING THIS FALL!

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**WOMEN'S FAITH GROUP** will be addressing the age old question DIAPERS, DINNER, DISHES, where does PRAYER fit in???? Interesting catholic topics relevant to women of all ages will be the focus of our studies.

We will be meeting at St. Patrick's Church in the hall Thursday mornings from 9:30- 11am starting Sept thru to May. **Babysitting will be provided.** Please register early to ensure a spot for your child. A minimal cost, for books, will be applied when the amount is known.

For more information and to register please contact: Colette Martinez at 403-487-0409 or [womensfaithgroup@outlook.com](mailto:womensfaithgroup@outlook.com) .

**Mission Statement:** The Women's Faith Group is a place where women, with or without children, can learn and grow together in the Catholic faith, as well as be nourished and supported emotionally, asking Christ to equip and empower us to be beacons of His love in our families and the community.

**Wanted for Women's Faith Group:** Experienced child-care person (18+) for above women's group. Must be committed for full 8 months. Paid position. Please e-mail resumes to [womensfaithgroup@outlook.com](mailto:womensfaithgroup@outlook.com).

## BIBLE SUMMER CAMP

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A Summer Bible camp meeting for those wanting to **volunteer** at either Holy Family or St. Patrick's Church will be held on Tuesday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 at Holy Family Parish in the Faith Room. Please use office entrance. This is a **combined** meeting for both churches! If you cannot come but still want to help please contact Sally at 403-527-6933.

## ONE ROCK & WORLD YOUTH DAY

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**One Rock & World Youth Day at Home 2013**

Are you going? One Rock has a new home at Mt. St. Francis Retreat Centre in Cochrane this year on July 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. It is a 3-day event that will give you the spiritual energy to meet new challenges. You can hear Dan DeMatte or Audrey Assad, attend Mass with the six bishops from Alberta and the North West Territories and see the live feed of Pope Francis at World Youth Day in Rio. We will be there. Will you? Go to **Onerock.ca** for information and early ticket prices.

In the community of Medicine Hat, we will organize a group led by Fr. Matthew to go to Cochrane for this event. Mark your calendar and watch for more info in bulletin..

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## SACRAMENTAL PREP

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### Confirmation

Bishop letters, sponsor names and confirmation name sheets MUST be handed in!

Make sure your child has **signed up** for their **study appointments** for both **Confirmation and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion!**

### Reconciliation Services

1. Copies of what to say and do during Confession will be available on a table as you come into the sanctuary.
2. In order to document who's received this sacrament children who are 1<sup>st</sup> time recipients must tell the priest their names. This is **not** part of regular confession. It's just for office records.
3. No certificates are handed out for this sacrament.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Masses

Because of the difference in the numbers of candidates receiving 1<sup>st</sup> Communion at Holy Family and St. Patrick's each parish will have their own seating arrangement.

### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

#### St. Patrick's Communion Candidates

1. Please arrive early.
2. When entering the church please go to the hospitality desk to sign in which will be on your left. Certificates in envelopes labeled with your child's name will also be there to pick up.
3. Families **will** sit with their candidate in reserved pews. Immediate family and Grandparents **ONLY PLEASE!**
4. After mass you may get pictures taken with the priest. Please no photos during the celebration.

#### Holy Family Candidates

1. Please arrive early
2. When entering the church please go to the sign in board which will be to your right. There will be Certificates in envelopes labeled with your child's name on a table. Please take your child's certificate
3. Because of so many recipients we ask that the **Candidates sit in the reserved pews**. Family members can sit where they like. **Make sure to come early so you will have your choice of seating.**
4. After mass you may get pictures taken with the priest. Please no photos during the celebration.

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## SICK & SUFFERING PRAYER LIST

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The prayer list for the sick and suffering has gotten so long that we are going to start a new one. If you would like to have someone included on the prayer list, please call the parish office.

*Please ask permission from the individual or family to have the name included on the list.*

Also, if the individual's circumstances should change, please make it your responsibility to call the parish office (403-527-6933) to update the list.

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## TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES SPRING SALE

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St. John's Presbyterian Church at 504 – 2<sup>nd</sup> St. S.E. on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. B.B.Q. & Ten Thousand Villages Spring Sale

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## LIVING ROSARY

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*The next Living Rosary is coming up on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6:30pm. Each Decade will be recited by the following groups:*

1. *Knights of Columbus*
2. *C.W.L.*
3. *Circle of Friends*
4. *Ministry to the Sick, Aged & Shut-in*
5. *Parish Youth*

*Please come join in as we celebrate and pray together as a community.*

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## MAY READING IN THE LIBRARY

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**A Mystic Garden:** Working with the Soil, Attending to the Soul

**Introduction to Mary:** The Heart of Marion Doctrine & Devotion

**Mary Miraculous:** Extraordinary Stories of Ordinary People Touched by our Lady

**Final Harvest:** The Fulfillment of the extraordinary apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Medjugorje  
Children's Books...

**An Angel Visits Mary**

**The Lady of Guadalupe**

**Mary the Mother of God**

**My First Book about Mary**

Also available is the DVD, **The Word of God in the Year of Faith:**

Introduction by Bishop Frederick Henry; lecture by Michael Duggan.

St. Mary's University has donated this to our library



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## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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The Knights of Columbus # 9502 Meeting will be held on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Faith Room.



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## C.W.L.

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The CWL will be meeting after the 7:00pm Mass in the Faith Room after the 7:00pm Mass on Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

## **GREAT CANADIAN BARN DANCE DAY TRIP**

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If you are interested in taking part in a daytrip to see the Great Canadian Barn Dance the end of June please contact Bob at 403-504-7725.

## **CHRISTIAN CONCERT: JUNE 19<sup>th</sup>**

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Emma Fradd & Friends will be at Holy Family Parish Hall on June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The admission is free and donations will be accepted. Come out and support this up and coming star. Emma was born in Port Pirie, South Australia, now 21 years old and living in Ottawa, Canada! She loves drinking tea and writing music and playing it for nice people like you. <http://emmafradd.bandcamp.com/>

## **MOUNT ST. FRANCIS RETREAT**

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**Men's Silent Retreat at MOUNT ST. FRANCIS** in Cochrane, Alberta  
Friday to Sunday **June 7-9 2013**

This year, Retreat Theme "**Fullness of Life**"

The five topics for the retreat talk are:

- Why Christian Fullness?
- Who is Jesus Christ?
- Where is the Church in all this?
- When are we reconciled to the fullness of life?
- What are we willing to risk?

To book your weekend or get further information

Contact: Ken Moen 403-527-0270 or 403-866-1270

[kmoen@telus.net](mailto:kmoen@telus.net)

Many of our retreatants have requested an early reminder of the ladies mid-week retreat at Mount Saint Francis so they are able to do some planning prior to summer.

Mount Saint Francis Ladies Mid-week retreat, Cochrane, AB Tuesday September 10th - Thursday September 12th /2013 Contact: Kathy Oczkowski 403-246-0660 or Roni Cooper 403-271-8812

## **JUNIOR CHOIR WANTS YOU... AND ADULT CHOIRS TOO**

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We are still meeting Tuesdays from 4:15 to 5:15 at Holy Family to practice for the Centennial Mass on May 26<sup>th</sup>. We invite anyone who would like to sing to come and join us!!

## **WHY DO CATHOLICS PRAY TO MARY?**

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Learn about the role of Mary in the Catholic Church through the video "The Footprints of God: Mary the Mother of God." Follow Mary's journey on location in Israel, Turkey and Greece with popular Catholic author and speaker Stephen Ray as your guide.

DATE: Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> TIME: 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Patrick's Church Hall - Parking lot entrance.

Free of Charge, Light Refreshments will be served

Everyone Is Welcome - Sponsored by the Legion of Mary. For more information please call Elizabeth at (403) 548-3054 or e-mail Karen-Anne at [kacherwono@shaw.ca](mailto:kacherwono@shaw.ca)

## **BASEBALL GLOVES FOR KIDS**

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Some St. Louis School students are in need of: New or Gently Used Baseball Gloves and Softballs. (No Hard Balls Please) You can drop off donations at St. Louis School at 861-4th Street SE. Your donation is greatly appreciated. THANK-YOU!

## **CORPUS CHRISTI: Overnight Adoration**

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You are invited to sign up for the overnight adoration on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Lord from Saturday June 1 at 7pm to 6am Sunday, June 2, 2013. There will be a short program at the end.

Please sign upon the display board found at the church entry.

1. Selected time of Adoration

2. That you will attend at 6:00-7:00am

Knowing there will be people attending is extremely important.

## **NATIONAL WEEK FOR LIFE AND THE FAMILY, MAY 12-19, 2013**

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### **An initiative of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops – Why celebrate life and the family together?**

- Each family is a source of life and a school for life.
- Families whenever possible accompany its members from birth to death, and in both sickness and health.
- Concern for the family and life is essential to the mission of the Christian community, and thus key to the Church's call for a new evangelization.
- As the Church focuses on the new evangelization, the Christian family is called upon to embrace in a unique way the invitation Christ extends to us at his Ascension – to proclaim the Good News of Life to the whole world.
- "The family has a natural vocation to promote life: it accompanies individuals as they mature and it encourages mutual growth and enrichment through caring and sharing.

The Christian family in particular serves as a seedbed for personal maturation according to the standards of divine love... It is in the family that peacemakers, tomorrow's promoters of a culture of life and love, are born and nurtured" (Pope Benedict XVI, *Message for the World Day of Peace*, January 1, 2013, n. 6).

Please find Special Prayer Cards for the National Week for Life and the Family in the greeting area entrances.

## **MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S EDUCATION FOUNDATION 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

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Medicine Hat Catholic School's Education Foundation will be hosting its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> (1pm shotgun start) at Cottonwood Coulee Golf Course. Registration - \$125/person. Please call 403-502-8351 for more information.

## **SILENT RETREAT AT SANCTUM**

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Sanctum Retreat (near Caroline, Alberta) is offering a guided silent retreat in June for women. Come celebrate a gift for the soul! Pause to refocus and pray, coming to the quiet to be with God in the solitude: June 7-9, 2013 – For more information or to register, please contact Chris at (780)463-2871 or email [newbuc@shaw.ca](mailto:newbuc@shaw.ca), or Anna Maria at (403)346-5033 or email [annamaria.blair@gmail.com](mailto:annamaria.blair@gmail.com), or visit [www.sanctumretreat.ca](http://www.sanctumretreat.ca).

## **PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND**

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**OCTOBER PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND** – Collette Vacations  
October 23-31, 2013.

Jackie Kirk, Marlin Travel (403)526-6605

[Jackie.kirk@marlintravel.ca](mailto:Jackie.kirk@marlintravel.ca) to receive the itinerary

Cost is

Single \$4,179

Double \$3,549

Triple \$3,519

Price Includes: Roundtrip air from Calgary & Hotel Transfers and accommodation, English speaking guide, 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 7 dinners.

Price does not include: Air Taxes & fees/fuel surcharges of \$840/person, Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$310/person and Tips of \$2 - \$5/ day

## **NOVEMBER PILGRIMAGE TO THE VATICAN, HOLY LAND & JORDAN (includes 8 hrs. to visit Vatican)**

Discount Holiday Center November 6 – 17, 2013

Rafik Bassili 1-888-296-7901 or 416-910-8972

[discountholiday@bellnet.ca](mailto:discountholiday@bellnet.ca) to receive the itinerary

Cost is:

Double.....2,559.00

Single Supplement \$699.99

Return Flight from Calgary \$439.99 meeting with rest of group in Toronto

Taxes \$599.00

Price includes: Breakfast & Dinner all the way, All accommodations & an English Speaking Guide.

Price does not include: Lunch, Tips – about \$140/person, Cancellation waiver & medical Insurance - \$192 for 55-60 yrsold and \$239 for 60-?, you would need to phone for insurance cost depending on your age.

## **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY**

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In teaching that Mary was conceived immaculate, the Catholic Church teaches that from the very moment of her conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from all stain of original sin. This simply means that from the beginning, she was in a state of grace, sharing in God's own life, and that she was free from the sinful inclinations which have beset human nature after the fall.

### **History of the Doctrine**

There are two passages in Scripture which point us to this truth. We look first at Genesis 3.15, in which we see the parallel between Mary and Eve of which the early Church Fathers already spoke: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed: he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." The Jews saw this passage as referring to the struggle between Christ and Satan,

and so the Church see in "the woman" a prophetic foreshadowing of the Virgin Mary (Vatican II, *Lumen gentium*, # 55).

If there is to be complete enmity between the woman and the serpent, then she never should have been in any way subject to him even briefly. This implies an Immaculate Conception.

We can also reason from the text of Lk 1:28, in which the angel calls her "full of grace". If we can validate the translation--we can, and will do so, shortly--then in this verse we can see even more strongly the complete enmity with the serpent--for God's grace is complete opposed to Satan's reign. But if Mary was "full of grace," it seems that she must have been conceived immaculate.

We turn to the early Fathers of the Church. First, many, not all of them, make sweeping statements about her holiness. That could imply an Immaculate Conception. Secondly, very many of them speak of her as the New Eve. They could have reasoned: the first Eve had an immaculate start in life--no sin was yet committed. So the New Eve, who was to share in undoing the harm of original sin, should have also an immaculate start. However, none of the Fathers actually followed this line of reasoning. (A few Fathers even tried to find sins she had committed, e.g. St. John Chrysostom, *Homilies on John* 21. PG 59. 130ff).

During the middle ages, authors such as St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Thomas Aquinas denied the doctrine. At this time, the data from Scripture and the Fathers was still not clear. In addition, the understanding of original sin was not as clear as it should have been--it was often thought of as having a positive element, instead of merely being an original lack of the grace to which God calls us. This positive element was thought to be transmitted from parents to children through the marital act (which was itself thought to be somehow sinful, though pardoned by God), and so it was hard to see how there could be an immaculate conception. This conception had been found in some, though by no means all, of the Fathers. Now of course we know it to be false. Finally, it was not generally seen at this time how an Immaculate Conception of Mary would not take away from the universality of redemption through Christ.

After a while, however, the theological tide began to turn, and the objections which had long obscured the content of divine revelation began to be overcome. This was due especially to the work of the Franciscan, Venerable John Duns Scotus. He showed that for God to preserve Mary from original sin was a greater redemption than to allow her to fall into it and then rescue her. Scotus wrote (cited from J. B. Carol, *Mariology* I, 368): "Either God was able to do this, and did not will to do it, or He willed to preserve her, and was unable to do so. If able to and yet unwilling to perform this for her, God was miserly towards her. And if He willed to do it but was unable to accomplish it, He was weak, for no one who is able to honor his mother would fail to do so."

We also note again that behind most of the objections was the rather positive notion of original sin. If we jump ahead several centuries to the clearer understanding of original sin we have now, we can remove this objection. Pope John Paul II expressed this understanding in a General Audience on Oct 1, 1986: "In context it is evident that original sin in Adam's descendants has not the character of personal guilt. It is the privation of sanctifying grace in a nature which, through the fall of the first parents, has been diverted from its supernatural end. It is a 'sin

of nature' only analogically comparable to 'personal sin'. In other words: It is only the lack, or privation, of that which God wanted us to have, which we should have inherited from our first parents."

Now back to our history. After that this change in theological tide had gone far towards removing objections, the Popes began to make statements of varying clarity. Sixtus IV in 1477 (DS 1400) praised the liturgical celebration of the Immaculate Conception. The same Pope added further support in 1483 (DS 1425-26), condemning those who said it was sinful to preach and believe the Immaculate Conception. The Council of Trent explicitly declared in its decree on original sin (DS 1516): "... it is not its intention to include in this decree ... the blessed and Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Rather, the Constitutions of Sixtus [IV] of happy memory are to be observed."

After Trent, the attacks on the Immaculate Conception were greatly moderated. Then Pope St. Pius V, in 1567 (DS 1973) condemned the error of Baius who said Our Lady was subject to original sin. And in 1568 the same Pope put the feast of the Immaculate Conception on the calendar of the Roman breviary. Alexander VII in 1661 explained the doctrine much as Pius IX did later: DB 1100. Pope Clement XI in 1708 made December 8 a holyday of obligation. Further, the Sixth Provincial Council of Baltimore in the U. S. in 1846 declared Mary Immaculate to be Patroness of the United States, and Pius IX on Feb. 7, 1847 confirmed this dedication.

The result was that about a century and a half before the definition of 1854, the whole Church believed the Immaculate Conception. Finally, in *Ineffabilis Deus*, in 1854, Pius IX defined this doctrine and added that Mary was conceived immaculate by anticipation of the merits of Christ. This is not strange, for to the eye of God, all time is present.

Now the Church continues to elucidate the scriptural basis of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. Pius XII, in *Fulgens corona*, 1953 wrote: "... the foundation of this doctrine is seen in the very Sacred Scripture itself, in which God ... after the wretched fall of Adam, addressed the ... serpent in these words... 'I will put enmity....' But if at any time, the Blessed Virgin Mary, defiled in her conception with the hereditary stain of sin, had been devoid of divine grace, then at least, even though for a very brief moment of time, there would not have been that eternal enmity between her and the serpent ... but instead there would have been a certain subjection."

## PREVENTIVE REDEMPTION

We have said that Mary needed redemption, although she was never subject to original sin. Nor did she have an "obligation" to contract it, as some have foolishly said: there can be no obligation to any sin. We can merely say she would have been in original sin in the sense just explained, i.e., she would have been born without grace, were it not for the preventive redemption. The word "preventive" means anticipatory: the grace she received at her conception was given in anticipation (Latin *praevenire*) of Christ's merits, which earned that grace.

## THE NATURE OF MARY'S GRACE AT THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

In Lk 1:28 the archangel hails her as, "full of grace". Most versions today do not use that rendering, but greatly weaken it. Yet it is

the correct translation as we can see from the Magisterium (Pius XII, *Fulgens Corona*, AAS 45, 579, and constant use of the Church) and also from philology.

For the Greek word in the Gospel is *kecharitomene*. It is a perfect passive participle of the verb *charitoo*. A perfect passive participle is very strong. In addition, *charitoo* belongs to a group of verbs ending in omicron omega. They have in common that they mean to put a person or thing into the state indicated by the root. Thus *leukos* means white, so *leukoo* means to make white. Then *charitoo* should mean to put into *charis*. That word *charis* can mean either favor or grace. But if we translate by favor, we must keep firmly in mind that favor must not mean merely that God, as it were, sits there and smiles at someone, without giving anything. That would be Pelagian: salvation possible without grace. So for certain, God does give something, and that something is grace, are share in His own life. So *charitoo* means to put into grace. But then too, *kecharitomene* is used in place of the name "Mary". This is like our English usage in which we say, for example, someone is Mr. Tennis. That means he is the ultimate in tennis. So then *kecharitomene* should mean "Miss Grace", the ultimate in grace. Hence we could reason that fullness of grace implies an Immaculate Conception.

Overflowing grace: Pius IX, in the document, *Ineffabilis Deus*, defining the Immaculate Conception in 1854 wrote: "He [God] attended her with such great love, more than all other creatures, that in her alone He took singular pleasure. Wherefore He so wonderfully filled her, more than all angelic spirits and all the Saints, with an abundance of all heavenly gifts taken from the treasury of the divinity, that she, always free from absolutely every stain of sin, and completely beautiful and perfect, presented such a fullness of innocence and holiness that none greater under God can be thought of, and no one but God can comprehend it."

What about the words of Jesus in Lk 11:27-28 (cf. Mt. 12:46-50 and Mk 3:35)? A woman in the crowd exclaimed: "Blessed is the womb that bore you...." He replied: "Rather blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it."

The dignity of being Mother of God is a quasi infinite dignity, as we just saw from the words of Pius XI. Yet here, our Lord is teaching us that the holiness coming from hearing the word of God and keeping it is something greater still. Her holiness must indeed be great--so great that "none greater under God can be thought of, and no one but God can comprehend it."

Even though Mary was full of grace at the start of her life, yet she could still grow, for, as it were, her capacity for grace could increase.

In general, a soul will grow in proportion to these things:

- (1) The greater the dignity of the person, the greater the merit. In her case, the dignity of Mother of God is the highest possible for a creature.
- (2) The greater the work, the greater the merit: her cooperation in the redemption was the greatest work possible to a creature.
- (3) The greater the love, the greater the merit. Love of God means the attachment of our will to His. Her will adhered supremely, with no

obstacle at all, so that even ordinary household duties, which she saw as the will of the Father for her, were supremely valuable.

Father William G. Most.

## **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL MOTHERS**

Why are you crying? He asked his mom.

"Because I'm a mother," She told him.

"I don't understand," he said.

His mom just hugged him and said, "You never will."

Later the little boy asked his father why his mother seemed to cry for no reason.

"All mothers cry for no reason," was all his dad could say.

The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why mothers cry. So he finally put in a call to God. When God got on the phone the man said, "God, why do mothers cry so easily?" God said,

*"You see, son, when I made mothers they had to be special. I made their shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world, yet gentle enough to give comfort. I gave them an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection that many times comes from their children. I gave them a hardiness that allows them to keep going when everyone else gives up, and to take care of their families through sickness and fatigue without complaining. I gave them the sensitivity to love their children under all circumstances, even when their child has hurt them very badly. This same sensitivity helps them to make a child's boo-boo feel better and helps them share a teenager's anxieties and fears. I gave them a tear to shed. It's theirs exclusively to use whenever it is needed. It's their only weakness. It's a tear for mankind." ~By Stanley E Fitzgerald~*

## **DIOSAN CENTENNIAL MASS: MAY 26, 2013**

This year the Diocese of Calgary is celebrating the Centennial Anniversary. Due to this major milestone in our diocese Bishop Henry has been going to different cities to celebrate with the people.

**The motto for the centennial year is *Celebrate the Past.***

***Live the Present. Become the Future.***

On May 26, Bishop Henry, priests, deacons and people from Bow Island, Brooks, Cluny, Strathmore, Drumheller, Hanna and Medicine Hat will celebrate the Eucharist at Holy Family Parish at 3 pm. The reception will follow in the hall. Every parishioner is invited.

### **CENTENNIAL PRAYER**

Loving Creator, Incarnate Word, Guiding Spirit, We praise and thank you for the gift of faith that inspired those who worked to establish the Diocese of Calgary to nurture all generations in faith.

Rooted in faith and guided by your gentle touch May your love continue to take flight in our lives as we meet the joys and challenges of the coming century.

Open our eyes to see your magnificence in all of creation. Open our ears to hear your praise and glory Spoken through persons of all faiths and races. Open our hearts to desire only goodness, justice and peace in your name. And open our hands to build your reign at this moment in time in this place.

We make these and all our prayers in your most holy name.

**Amen**

## **WHAT MARRIAGE MEANS TO CATHOLICS**

### **Marriage...**

**...is a sacrament** that a woman and a man give to each other and they then become the living sign of the sacrament,

**...is a natural institution** that has served the needs of society by producing and educating their children, our new citizens,

**...is the domestic church** where the great gift of the faith is passed on from generation to generation,

**...is a blessing of mutual love and intimacy** between a man and a woman,

**...is a healthy, safe and very successful setting** for the long years of development and formation needed by children to become mature, contributing adults,

**...is the key institution** that ensures the continuation of the human race and the prosperity of a nation,

**...is a wholesome healthy model** for relationships that we should hold up to our children and grandchildren as an example,

**...is an encouragement** to individuals to be aware of their place in the mainstream of humanity, their heredity and their self-worth,

**...is an institution** that has endured and given stability to people for millennia in spite of disasters, wars, plagues and the interference of secular rulers,

**...is a contributor** to the meaning of life, care for others, glimpses of immortality and a perspective beyond the self,

**...is a vocation** for a man and a woman, not just a relationship, involving self-giving, a path to sanctity and the responsibility of dedicated parenthood.

