

# HOLY FAMILY PARISH

5/5/2013

The Ascension Of The Lord



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Medicine Hat, AB T1B-4V3

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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)

## ANNUAL FINANCE MEETING

**MAY 8, 2013 AT 7 PM**

We are grateful to have your financial and spiritual support. The Annual Finance Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8 at 7 pm in the HALL. All parishioners are welcome! We invite your questions and concerns at this meeting.

**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 - pager: 403-458-1445

### 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**

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:  
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.  
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

John 14: 27



**Gospel Acclamation (John 14.23)  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Whoever loves me will keep my  
word, and my Father will love him,  
and we will come to him.**

**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 4/5, 2013**

## **SUNDAY READINGS**

**First Reading** (Acts 15:1-2; 22-29). Here we see how conscious the early Christians were of the presence of God's Spirit among them, guiding their deliberations on difficult questions, so that their final decisions were also his: "decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves".

**Second Reading** (Revelation 21:10-14; 22-23). While older religions tended to think of God being located in special places or temples, the God we worship is present everywhere. His glory fills the whole universe. In him we live and move and have our being. He lives in us and we in him.

**The Gospel** (John 14:23-29). Jesus' promise to make his home in those who love Him and keep his Word, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, shows that his going away is not a separation, but a way of being closer than ever to us who love and obey Him.

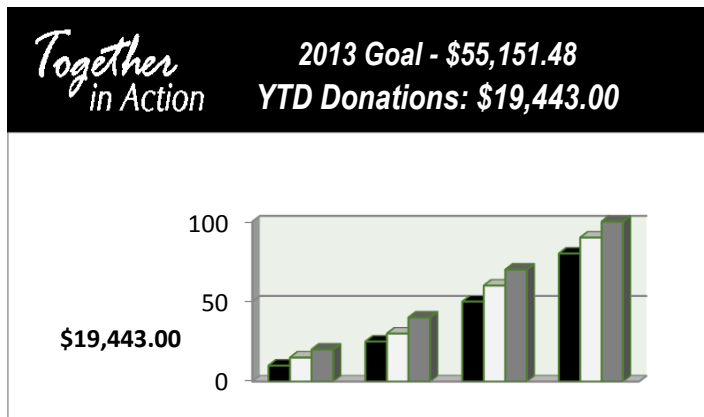
## **OPERATING FINANCES**

**(April 25<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013)**

-Cost to operate our Parish (Budget 2013)		<b>\$15,600</b>
-General Collections:	<b>\$3,427</b>	
-Debt reduction (Mortgage)	<b>\$16,143</b>	
-Total Collections:	<b>\$19,570</b>	
-Exceed or (Shortfall)		<b>\$3,970</b>

### **Special Collections**

***Together in Action/Peace&Developemnet:	<b>\$618</b>
***World Missions:.....	<b>\$35</b>
***Priests Retirement Fund:.....	<b>\$20</b>
***St Vincent de Paul:.....	<b>\$1,039</b>
***Mission Mexico:.....	<b>\$15</b>
***NET Ministries:.....	<b>\$100</b>



## **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!*

## **PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS & INTENTIONS**

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

### **SUNDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>** **THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- + PARISH BREAKFAST AFTER AM MASSES
- + **Mass: 8:30am** (Intention: Jack & Joyce Risling)
- + 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)
- + 1 Baptism at 10:30 Mass
- + Children's Liturgy at 10:30 Mass
- + Confirmation Class: 5:00pm at HFP in the Faith Room
- + **Mass: 6:00pm** (Intention: Tina Hertz ☩)
- + UNCHAINED after 6:00pm Mass in the HFP Hall

### **MONDAY, MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: Elizabeth Graham)
- + NET Team Volunteers BBQ: 5:00pm at St. Patrick's Parish
- + Knights Of Columbus #9502 Exec. Meeting: 7:00pm in Faith Room

### **TUESDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

- + SVDP Meeting: 4:00pm in the Faith Room
- + Centennial Mass Choir Practice: 4:15pm – 5:15pm
- + **Mass: 7:00pm** (Intention: Angelo & Dorothy Giacobbo)
- + **Adoration after Mass until 8:30**
- + Light Weigh: 7:00pm in the Hope Room
- + CWL Executive Meeting: after 7:00 Mass in the Faith Room

### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>**

- + Women's Praise & Worship: 6:45am in the Faith Room
- + **Mass: 8:20am** at St. Francis School
- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: Sheilagh Lockert ☩)
- + Breakfast after Mass in Hall
- + Bible Study: 9:30am in the Faith Room
- + Ministry to the aged: 1:30pm - Sunnyside
- + Ministry to the aged: 3:30pm – Good Samaritans
- + Choir Practice (6pm Mass): 6:00pm
- + **ANNUAL FINANCE MEETING: 7:00pm in HFP Hall**
- + RCIA 7:00pm in the Faith Room

### **THURSDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**

- + Men's Prayer Group: 6:30am in the Charity Room
- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: Special Intentions)
- + Breakfast after Mass in Hall
- + **Holy Hour: 6:00pm**

- +Choir Practice for 8:30 & 10:30 Masses at 7:00pm
- + Knights Of Columbus #7325 Meeting: 7:30pm in Faith Room

## FRIDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>

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- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: Madeleine & Wayne Riffel ☩)
- + **Adoration after Mass until noon.**
- + Breakfast after Mass in Hall
- + Ministry to the aged: 10:00am – Meadowlands
- + **Mass: 10:00am** – The Wellington
- + Seniors Tea: 2:00pm in the HFP Hall
- + EQUIP: 7:00pm at Holy Family Parish

## SATURDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup>

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- +Confirmation Retreat: 9:00am-2:00pm at Holy Family Parish
- + Internment: 10:00am
- + **Reconciliation 3:00 – 4:00pm**
- + Choir Practice for 5:00 Mass at 4:00pm
- + 1<sup>st</sup> Communion\Reconciliation Class: 4:45pm at St. Patrick's Parish

### THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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

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

### THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

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- + **Mass: 8:30am** (Intention: Donna & Keith Crush & Family)
- + 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

### EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION/ADORATION

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Spare an hour with the Lord...

**Tuesday: After 7:00pm Mass until 8:30pm**

**Thursday: Holy Hour from 6:00pm to 7:00pm**

**Friday: After 9:00am Mass until Noon**

### 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 26th – 28th. 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](http://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.

## THE POPE'S PASTORAL WORKS

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If a famine or a disastrous flood or earthquake strikes a nation at the other end of the world, immediately many countries rush in food, medicine, blankets, money, and trained people to help. Prominent among such aid is the financial help offered by the Holy Father to people in need. In the name of Catholics everywhere, he displays Christ's love and compassion for those who suffer.

Every year on **this Sunday**, Canadian Catholics take special collection to give such funds to the Holy See, enabling the pope to be even more generous in time of disaster. If you want to help, please mark your envelopes "The Pope's Pastoral Works."

For those who are using offering envelopes, there is a special one in your box, please use it.

Come, you who my Father has blessed.  
 Come into the kingdom prepared for you,  
 For I was hungry and thirsty,  
 I was in need of clothing, shelter and medicine,  
 And you helped me.  
 As often as you did it for these,  
 The least of my sisters and brothers,  
 You did it to me (See Mt. 25: 34-40)

Those who are generous in their response to Christ's appeal for his needy brothers and sisters will someday hear his words.

## BIBLE SUMMER CAMP

### ST. PATRICK & THE HOLY SPIRIT

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We have an awesome camp for both Holy Family and St. Patrick's Church coming up this summer.

St. Patrick's Monday July 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> 9am – 12 Noon

Holy Family Monday July 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 9am – 12 Noon

This program is written by Catholics for Catholics and has been granted the Nilhil Obstat through the Catholic Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana. Each level is geared toward specific age groups. Planning is a breeze because the curriculum is all ready to go. Everything from lessons, activities, music, snacks, crafts and pirate skits are just waiting to be dived in to. All we need is YOUR HELP! We need volunteers to help make these 2 wacky weeks crazy fun, entertaining and most of all God inspiring. PLEASE call Sally at Holy Family 403-527-6933 or at St. Patrick's 403-526-2265. It's great to be Catholic! Let's give our kids this opportunity to see just how awesome it is!

## 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.

## **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.



## **NET TEAM NEWS**

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**Equip Gr. 6-9** - Do you believe in Miracles? Be blown away by some awesome Miracles related to our Catholic Faith! Join us on Friday May 10th at Holy Family Parish, 7pm-9pm!

**Unchained Gr. 10-12** - Have you ever wondered what your purpose is or what you should do with your life? Come find out how God can help you find out what you were created for! Join us for a night on **Vocations**, Sunday May 5th from 7pm-9pm at Holy Family Parish!

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!

**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 been 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!

## **A huge thank you to the following families hosting the NET from May 2 to May 16th!!!!**

Dale & Elizabeth McPherson - hosting James, Matthew and Ian  
Darrel & Dawn Bonogofski - hosting Ashley & Michelle  
Pat & Karen Roche - hosting Sharon & Kyle

The NET was a huge part of our Catholic Community since Oct 4, 2012. A total of 20 families embraced them by opening their homes to six young adults eager to share the love of Jesus. Their mission was "to challenge young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church."

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the NET will be leaving our community. To show our appreciation to the host homes and all the families who helped with donations of food and/or cash are invited to attend a **BBQ on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in St. Patrick's Parish Hall.** It's our way of saying thank-you. Hope to see you there!



## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

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The Knights of Columbus # 9502 Executive Meeting will be held on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Faith Room.

## **CAMP McCOY**

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Camp McCoy is looking for photos of Camp McCoy for a power point presentation, the older the better. We need photos of the old hall inside and out, Camp activities and/or photos of the grounds before cabins and extra buildings. All photos will be returned to their owners once scanned. Not all photos will be used for the power point. You could also email me photos. Please contact: Michael Ancil 403-529-7815 (cell) [mancil@memlane.com](mailto:mancil@memlane.com)

## **MEDICINE HAT & DISTRICT PRO-LIFE HIKE FOR LIFE**

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Medicine Hat & District Pro-Life Association is hosting a "HIKE FOR LIFE" on SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013 at 1:00pm. Our Objective is to raise needed funds to continue to provide education activities and support. Registration will begin at 1:00pm at the LION'S PARK KITCHEN, and at 1:30pm we will walk to the Library and back along the Trans Canada Walking Trail (this does not cross any roadways.) The walk is approximately 4km, and should take about an hour. There will be refreshments after the walk.

Pledge forms are available at Holy Family Parish Office. For more information call George Ibach at 403-527-7434



## **C.W.L.**

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**CWL-** a heartfelt **Thank You to Fr. Philip**, our celebrant and spiritual adviser, choir, and all our members who took part in making "**Our Lady of Good Counsel**" celebration so wonderful this past weekend. Thanks also to **the Liturgy ministers**, who stepped aside from serving, in order that we could serve. We had a great assortment of cookies & muffins for coffee in the church hall. "**Teach us to share with others at home & abroad, the good things you have given us.**"

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

## **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/>

## **SACRAMENTAL PREP**

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### **Confirmation**

There will be a retreat for Confirmation Candidates at Holy Family Parish Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm. Lunch will be provided. Also parents please drop in during Confirmation class and sign your child up for their Study Appointments.

If you haven't handed in your Bishops letter, Confirmation Name sheet and Sponsor sheet, it is very important to do so as soon as possible.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Communion/Reconciliation**

Please be sure to sign up indicating your choice of dates for Study Appointments, Reconciliation Services and Communion Masses. There are only 2 classes left May 11/12 & May 25/26

### **Candidates Receiving Reconciliation Only**

Please drop by Holy Family or St. Patrick's Church to sign up on the dates provided in regards to the Reconciliation Services. If you have any questions please feel free to call Sally at 403-527-6933

## **JUNIOR CHOIR WANTS YOU ATTENTION ADULT CHOIRS TOO**

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Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> Holy Family Church will be celebrating the Diocese of Calgary's 100 year presence in Southern Alberta!! There will be a mass at 3:00pm with Bishop Henry that will be led by our junior choir and anyone else who would like to join us! We would love to have you come both young and old . . .er. (ahem =/)

Practices will be every Tuesday at 4:15 to 5:15. If you work and can't get there until a little later, no worries I can stay and go over music with you. This mass will take the place of the regularly scheduled 6:00pm Sunday evening mass this time only. Call Sally for more info 403-527-6933.

## **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 10<sup>th</sup> - Thursday September 12<sup>th</sup> /2013 Contact: Kathy Oczkowski 403-246-0660 or Roni Cooper 403-271-8812

## **LOST & FOUND**

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If you have found a pair of glasses in the church please bring them to the office. We have 2 parishioners that have recently lost their glasses at the church. One is a red pair and the other is metal pair with white arms.

Also please check the lost and found box near the office, as we will be clearing out all the winter items soon. We also have a set of Dodge keys and a house key here at the office that have been here since Easter.

## **CATHOLIC CRUISE TO ALASKA**

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Come and sail away on a 7-night Catholic Alaska Cruise with Fr. John Palatucci, August 20-27, 2013 on the Carnival Miracle out of Seattle, Washington. Ports of Call, Cruise Tracy Arm Fjord, Skagway (Alaska), Juneau (Alaska), Ketchikan (Alaska) & Victoria (BC). Prices begin at \$2095 for two passengers which includes all port fees and taxes. Daily Mass and Rosary offered. Deposits of only \$450.00 per person will reserve your cabin. Space is limited. Contact Doug or Eileen at (860)399-1785 or [dpayttc@aol.com](mailto:dpayttc@aol.com).

## **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 6 pm to 6 am Sunday, June 2, 2013. There will be a short program at the end.

## **FEEDING THE HOMELESS SCHEDULES**

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The new schedule for the "Feeding the Homeless" program starting May 23rd can be picked up in the folders beside the vestment room.

## **OFFICE OF VOCATIONS**

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### **Information Day on the Diocesan Priesthood**

This day is for men between the ages of 17 and 35 years. It includes talks given by Bishop Henry and priests of the diocese, as well as the celebration of the Eucharist.

**Location:** Sacred Heart Church, 1307 – 14th St. S.W., Calgary, (new Lower Hall/14th Street entrance)

**Date:** Saturday, May 11th, 9:00 a.m. -- 2:00 p.m.

For further information and to register contact: Office of Vocations

**Phone:** 403-245-2753; **E-mail:** [mjgaffney@telusplanet.net](mailto:mjgaffney@telusplanet.net).

## **ANNUAL FINANCE MEETING MAY 8, AT 7 PM**

We are grateful to have your financial and spiritual support. The Annual Finance Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8 at 7 pm in the HALL. All parishioners are welcome! We invite your questions and concerns at this meeting. We would like your input as to where we go from here in regards to future projects of our church. Please join us!

1. 2012 finance review
2. Building a baptismal font?
3. Expanding the hall?
4. Building a columbarium?
5. Building a grotto?

## **YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR**

St. Patrick and Holy Family Parishes are in need of a highly-motivated and confident coordinator of Youth Ministry.

### **The successful candidate for this position will have:**

- Personal Catholic Faith conviction and active participation in a Catholic Parish
- Good organizational skills
- Self-motivation to work flexible hours with a minimum supervision
- Good communication skills
- Commitment to the teaching and practices of the Catholic Faith
- Education and/or experience in youth ministry

### **Specific tasks for this position:**

- Continue to develop youth ministry at St. Patrick and Holy Family
- Encourage and assist those engaged in youth ministry in the parishes and schools
- Work with three level of youth: elementary, junior and high schools

### **So far we have 5 applications**

**For further information, contact Holy Family Parish, Medicine Hat, Alberta 403-527-6933**

**Candidates are invited to submit a resume before May 31, 2013 by email: [frphilip@holymfamilymh.ca](mailto:frphilip@holymfamilymh.ca)**

## **MAY:**

## **THE MONTH OF MARY-PRAYER OF ROSARY**

### **The Perpetual Virginity of Mary**

#### **Fathers of the Church**

Church Fathers from at least the fourth century spoke of Mary as having remained a virgin throughout her life:

Athanasius (Alexandria, 293-373);  
Epiphanius (Palestine, 315?-403);  
Jerome (Stridon, present day Yugoslavia, 345?-419);  
Augustine (Numidia, now Algeria, 354-430);  
Cyril (Alexandria, 376-444); and others.

#### **Teaching of the Universal Church**

The Council of Constantinople II (553-554) twice referred to Mary as "ever-virgin."

### **Protestant Reformers**

The protestant reformers affirmed their belief that Mary, while remaining every-virgin, was truly the Mother of God. Here are only a few examples:

**Martin Luther** (1483-1546), *On the Divine Motherhood of Mary*, wrote: "In this work whereby she was made the Mother of God, so many and such great good things were given her that no one can grasp them. ... Not only was Mary the mother of him who is born [in Bethlehem], but of him who, before the world, was eternally born of the Father, from a Mother in time and at the same time man and God." (Weimer's *The Works of Luther*, English translation by Pelikan, Concordia, St. Louis, v. 7, p. 572.)

Luther wrote on the Virginity of Mary: "It is an article of faith that Mary is Mother of the Lord and still a virgin. ... Christ, we believe, came forth from a womb left perfectly intact." (Weimer's *The Works of Luther*, English translation by Pelikan, Concordia, St. Louis, v. 11, pp. 319-320; v. 6. p. 510.)

The French reformer **John Calvin** (1509-1564) also held that Mary was the Mother of God. "It cannot be denied that God in choosing and destining Mary to be the Mother of his Son, granted her the highest honor. ... Elizabeth called Mary Mother of the Lord, because the unity of the person in the two natures of Christ was such that she could have said that the mortal man engendered in the womb of Mary as at the same time the eternal God." (*Calvini Opera, Corpus Reformatorum, Braunschweig-Berlin, 1863-1900, v. 45, p. 348, 35.*)

Calvin also upheld the perpetual virginity of Mary, as did the Swiss reformer, Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531), who wrote: "I firmly believe that Mary, according to the words of the gospel as a pure Virgin brought forth for us the Son of God and in childbirth and after childbirth forever remained a pure, intact Virgin." (*Zwingli Opera, Corpus Reformatorum, Berlin, 1905, v. 1, p. 424.*)

### **Objections**

There are some very common objections to the belief that Mary remained a virgin after the birth of Jesus.

1) The Bible frequently speaks of the "brothers" and "sisters" of Jesus.

First it is important to note that the Bible does not say that these "brothers and sisters" of Jesus were children of Mary.

Second, the word for brother (or sister), *adelphos* (*adelpa*) in Greek, denotes a brother or sister, or near kinsman. Aramaic and other semitic languages could not distinguish between a blood brother or sister and a cousin, for example.

Hence, John the Baptist, a cousin of Jesus (the son of Elizabeth, cousin of Mary) would be called "a brother (*adelphos*) of Jesus." In the plural, the word means a community based on identity of origin or life. Additionally, the word *adelphos* is used for (1) male children of the same parents (Mt 1:2); (2) male descendants of the same parents (Acts 7:23); (3) male children of the same mother (Gal 1:19); (4) people of the same nationality (Acts 3:17); (5) any man, a neighbor (Lk 10:29); (6) persons united by a common interest (Mt 5:47); (7) persons united by a common calling (Rev 22:9); (8) mankind (Mt 25:40); (9) the disciples (Mt 23:8); and (10) believers (Mt 23:8).

(From *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words*, Thomas Nelson, Publisher.)

2) A second objection to Mary's virginity arises from the use of the word *heos* in Matthew's gospel. "He (Joseph) had no relations with her at any

time before (*heos*) she bore a son, whom he named Jesus" (Mt 1:25, NAB).

The Greek and the Semitic use of the word *heos* (until or before) does not imply anything about what happens after the time indicated. In this case, there is no necessary implication that Joseph and Mary had sexual contact or other children after Jesus.

3) A third objection to the perpetual virginity of Mary arises from the use of the word *prototokos*, translated 'first-born' in Luke's gospel.

But the Greek word *prototokos* is used of Christ as born of Mary and of Christ's relationship to His Father (Col 1:25). As the word does not imply other children of God the Father, neither does it imply other children of Mary.

The term "first-born" was a legal term under the Mosaic Law (Ex 6:14) referring to the first male child born to Jewish parents regardless of any other children following or not. Hence when Jesus is called the "first-born" of Mary it does not mean that there were second or third-born children.

by Dr. Robert Schihl

Matthew Kelly's:

## WHO STARTED YOUR CHURCH

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I was praying for Pope Francis this morning and it occurred to me that one fact got very little attention in the media circus that surrounded the conclave. Today, there are officially more than 30,000 different Christian churches, all teaching different doctrines. How did this splintering and division happen?

### It all began about 400 years ago...

If you are a **Lutheran**, your religion was founded by Martin Luther, an ex-monk of the Catholic Church, in the year 1517. This is the oldest of the protestant churches and began the splintering process.

The **Anabaptist** religion splintered from the Lutherans in 1520, founded by Nicholas Storch and Thomas Munzer.

If you are a **Mennonite** your religion is an offshoot of the Anabaptist church founded in 1525 and takes its name from Menno Simons, a former Catholic priest.

If you are **Anglican**, you belong to the Church of England and your religion was founded by King Henry VIII in the year 1534 because the Pope would not grant him a divorce with the right to remarry.

If you are a **Presbyterian**, your religion was founded by John Knox in Scotland in the year 1560.

If you are a **Protestant Episcopalian**, your religion was an offshoot of the Church of England founded by Samuel Seabury in the American colonies in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

If you are a **Baptist**, you owe the tenets of your religion to John Smyth, who launched it in Amsterdam in 1605.

If you are a **Congregationalist**, your religion was originated by Robert Brown in Holland in 1582.

If you are a **Quaker**, your religion was founded in 1647 by George Fox in England.

If you are **Amish**, your church is founded by Jacob Anman in 1693.

If you are **Methodist**, your religion was launched by John and Charles Wesley in England in 1744.

If you are a **Unitarian**, Theophilus Lindley founded your church in London in 1774

If you are **Episcopalian** your religion was founded in 1784 by Samuel Seabury in the American Colonies and is offshoot of the Church of England.

If you are a **Mormon** (Latter Day Saints), Joseph Smith started your religion in Palmyra, N.Y. In 1829.

If you are of **Dutch Reformed Church**, you recognize Michaelis Jones as founder because he originated your religion in New York in 1628.

If you worship with the **Salvation Army**, your group began with William Booth in London in 1865.

If you are a **Christian Scientist**, you look to 1879 as the year in which your religion was born and to Mrs. Mary Bakko Eddy as its founder.

If you are a member of the **Assemblies of God**, your religion was founded by Charles Parham in Topeka, Kansas in 1901.

If you belong to the **Church of the Nazarene**, your religion was started in 1907 with Dr. Phineas F. Bresee, a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and Dr. Joseph Pomeroy Widney, a Methodist physician.

If you belong to The **United Church of Canada** you should know that it was inaugurated on June 10, 1925 in Toronto, Ontario, when the Methodist Church of Canada, the Congregational Union of Canada, and 70 per cent of the Presbyterian Church of Canada entered into an organic union.

If you are a **Jehovah Witnesses**, your religion was founded by Charles Taze Russell in 1931.

If you have stopped attending church and you have founded your own religion and approved yourself pope, you can add your name to the list.

If you are **Catholic** you belong to the Church that was founded around the year 33 by someone named Jesus Christ who by his life death and resurrection proved to be the Son of God.

Jesus appointed the first Pope (Matt. 16: 19) and as Catholics we can trace our apostolic lineage from Peter to Pope Francis. There is something beautiful and inspiring about that. For more than 1,500 years all Christians were united into one Church. The splintering that has taken place since that fateful day in 1517 when Martin Luther walked away the Catholic Church has been a failed experiment. Let us pray for Christian unity. Pope Francis is already captivating the world in his early days. I pray he continues, so together, we may re-prose the genius of Catholicism to the people of our time.

**Happy Easter Season Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**



# Bringing Home the Word



6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER May 5, 2013

## The Spirit Is Real in Our Lives

By Diane M. Houdek

John's Gospel explores complex and spiritual ideas, far different from the earthy parables of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Sometimes we might think these philosophical discussions have little to do with our daily lives. But again and again Jesus returns to words we know very well: love, peace, joy, freedom from fear.

In today's Gospel, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to remind the disciples of all that he has told them. This same Spirit moves in us when we face difficult situations. The Spirit gives us the words we need to bring peace to a tense meeting or a hurtful relationship. The Spirit that soothes us to sleep in the middle of a stressful night. The Spirit that reminds us of the good within ourselves and people we love.

Sometimes we forget what we know in the pressures and tensions of our everyday lives. Family, work, the unsettled state of the world, press in on us and in the clamor we can forget our focus, our purpose, our need to surrender to the Spirit. Sometimes all it takes is a little nudge, a reminder that we know that there's a better way, the way of Jesus, the way of the Spirit.

The Spirit's nudging reminders keep us focused on the things that matter: peace in our hearts and in our world, love for ourselves, one another and our God, the faith that's rooted in our baptism and grows and strengthens as we face life's challenges.

That same Spirit moves through our Church as well. The Acts of the Apostles reminds us that while the Spirit moved in wondrous ways to encourage the growth of the new community, people still had to resolve serious conflicts among themselves. In their day, no less than in ours, the community struggled with the question of rules and laws, of who's in and who's out, of what was essential and what was human tradition.

The strong leadership and dedication of people like Paul and Barnabas helped cut through the controversies of the day and reminded the new Christians of the man and the faith they hold dear. We see that same spirit in the best of our leaders today.

The second reading from the Book of Revelation seems a good counterpoint to the controversies in Acts. Human institutions, no matter how lofty their intentions, can become mired in human misunderstanding and sin; in God's kingdom those failings will be transcended.

As we move through these days between Easter and Pentecost, our readings remind us to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us, to speak to us and for us, to draw us ever more deeply into the love of God. While we never lose sight of the human ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, we know that the resurrection means that we are called into something even greater than this life here on earth. All that we do here, serving our brothers and sisters, should reflect and point to that eternal reality.

The readings from the Gospel of John during these final weeks of Easter often seem to repeat the same things over and over again. But, like a favorite melody that runs through our minds, the words of Jesus in John's Gospel can soothe and calm us, can move us forward, can give us the peace and courage that are the truly the gifts of the Spirit. †

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What might be holding you back from embracing the Spirit's gifts in your life?
- When have you experienced the Spirit empowering you to do something you couldn't have done on your own? What was your response?
- How would you explain the Spirit to a child?
- When has someone done something for you that clearly revealed the Spirit's presence?