

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

August 24/25, 2013 - The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



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

Phone: 403-527-6933 Fax: 403-526-2482

email: contact@holyfamilymh.ca

website: www.holyfamilymh.ca

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

Closed on Statutory Holidays

Calgary Diocesan: www.rcdiocese-calgary.ab.ca

Pastor - Rev. Philip Le - frphilip@holyfamilymh.ca

Associate Pastor - Rev. Matthew Emmelkamp
fmatthew@holyfamilymh.ca

Deacons:

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

Pastoral Care of the Sick – 403-580-9266

Youth Ministry

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



And he said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door: for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. Luke 13.24

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 _____



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SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading (Is. 66:18-21): Universality of God's Kingdom. God is ready to receive into his Kingdom all who recognize the sign of truth. Every nation and people will be offered the opportunity to witness to his love.

Second Reading (Heb. 12:5-7, 11-13). Human suffering is put in the context of the discipline which a good parent uses in order to train his/her child to cope with the difficulties of life. This training period should ultimately lead to maturity and to a life characterized by integrity, harmony and peace.

The Gospel (Lk. 13:22-23). The theme of timely training in the Christian life is carried forward by Luke. Salvation is offered to all but many postpone their response. They are too preoccupied with their own affairs and so the life of grace eludes them.

OPERATING FINANCES

Ria is taking a well-deserved, relaxing holiday, so there will be no financials until September. Have a safe and fun Holiday, Ria, we miss you!

PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS & INTENTIONS

DAILY MASS MAY BE CANCELED IN THE CASE OF A FUNERAL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- + **Mass: 8:30am** (Intention: Holy Family Parish Deceased ☩)
- + **Mass: 10:30am** (Intention: Holy Family Parish)
- + 4 Baptisms at the 10:30am Mass
- + **Mass: 6:00pm** (Intention: Holy Family Parish Deceased ☩)

MONDAY, AUGUST 26TH

- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: Thanksgiving)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27TH

- + **Mass: 7:00pm** (Intention: Young Shin)
- + **Adoration after Mass until 8:30**
- + Light Weigh: 7:00pm in the Hope Room

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28TH

- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: Eugenia Lutz ☩)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29TH

- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: J.C. Huggins ☩)
- + **Holy Hour: 6:00pm**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30TH

- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: Poor Souls in Purgatory ☩)
- + **Adoration after Mass until noon.**
- + Breakfast after Mass in Hall
- + Ministry to the aged: 10:00am – Meadowlands
- + **Mass: 10:00am** – The Wellington

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST

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

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- + **Mass: 5:00pm** (Intention: Holy Family Parish Benefactors ☩)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- + **Mass: 8:30am** (Intention: Betty Herklotz ☩)
- + The Library will be open after morning Masses
- + **Mass: 10:30am** (Intention: Holy Family Parish)
- + **Mass: 6:00pm** (Intention: Thanksgiving to Jesus)

SUNDAY PLAN

1st Sunday: Deacons' preaching

2nd and 4th Sundays: Baptisms

3rd Sunday: Wedding Anniversary Blessing.

ANNUAL PARISH CORN ROAST

The parish will be hosting the Annual Parish Corn Roast on Sunday, September 15th at NOON. All Parishioners are invited. Come out, Mingle, and start the fall off with this fun annual family event.

WOMEN'S SILENT RETREAT AT SANCTUM

Sanctum Retreat (near Caroline, Alberta) is offering a guided silent retreat in September 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.

September 13-15, 2013 – For more information or to register, please contact Francine at 403-932-4089 or franjay@telus.net, or visit www.sanctumretreat.ca.

WOULD YOU DONATE A TREE?

We have planted 10 aspen trees and are going to plant 6 spruce trees. Would you like to donate one?

LIGHT WEIGH IS AT HOLY FAMILY

Would you like to learn how to overcome temptation and eat the foods you enjoy, while you grow closer to God and lose Weight?

Prevention Magazine chose Light Weigh because it met their criteria for a safe and healthy faith based diet program.

New research shows, church based meetings increased people's weight loss. There are no weigh-ins.

The Light Weight Bible Study DVD series will have an **Orientation on Tuesday September 10th @ 6 PM.**

THE PALIO DIOCESAN FAMILY COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday September 14, 2013. This fun filled family day happening at the Strathmore Rodeo Grounds will recognize our Diocesan Centennial Year and feature an open air Mass with Bishop Henry, the running of the horses, baseball games and children's activities. The tickets are available at the parish office. See www.palio.ca for details.

Tickets for The Palio 2013 are available at the office. Adults \$10.00, Children \$5.00, Seniors \$5.00 and 2 years and under are free. **We will be offering a free bus to the event from St. Patrick's and Holy Family Parish... Space is limited so book early.**

SENIORS' TEA

The parish has a new coordinator for the Senior's Tea and a new day. The Senior's Tea will now fall on third Thursday of each month with the first one on September 19th at 2:00pm in the Parish Hall.

YEAR OF FAITH PASSPORT PILGRIMAGE



YEAR OF FAITH 2012 – 2013

PASSPORT PILGRIMAGES

JUNE – NOVEMBER 2013

Join us in one of our mini pilgrimages throughout Southern Alberta and experience a personal invitation from God whether you are seeking to deepen your faith, asking forgiveness or expressing gratitude....

The pilgrimage will be a wonderful experience along with a rich history about our province.

This fall... in Celebration of the Year of Faith 2012-2013

Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary Presents...

PASSPORT PILGRIMAGE... Fall dates – TBA

Contact – Mary Ann @ 403-218-5516
or Carmela @ 403-265-6143

1st ANNUAL COLT'S FOOTBALL STEAK NIGHT FUNDRAISER

The 1st Annual Colt's Football Steak Night Fundraiser will be Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 6:00pm at Monsignor McCoy High School Gym. The cost is \$20.00/person. There will be a Silent Auction & Grey Cup Tickets – Grand Prize Draw. Tickets can be purchased at Monsignor McCoy High School Office. For more information or to make a donation to the silent auction please contact Lannette Wall @ 403-529-1364 or 403-581-1588 or allboys3@telus.net. All proceeds go to support the McCoy Colts Football Team.



CWL SENIOR'S LUNCHEON September 8, 2013

Senior's Luncheon will be Sunday, September 8, 2013 in the parish hall after the 10:30am Mass for all C.W.L. members 75+ and their plus one. Sign-up sheets on the C.W.L. board in the hallway. Must register by September 1/13.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION

If you'd like your children to receive First communion/Reconciliation or Sacrament of Confirmation, please come to **ONE** of the registration nights:

- St. Patrick's Hall:
 - Sept. 25th at 7 pm
 - Oct. 2nd at 7 pm
- Holy Family Parish Hall:
 - Sept. 26th at 7 pm
 - Oct. 3rd at 7 pm

Please bring a copy of your child's certificate of baptism. If your child was baptized at St. Mary's, or Christ the King's, or St. Joseph (Schuler), or at Holy Family's, you do NOT need a certificate of Baptism.

FLOOD RELIEF DONATIONS

A Big Thank You to all who have donated to Flood Relief Fund. So far we have collected more than \$20,000. Even though Medicine Hat has 139 homes that cannot be lived in yet, but the flood damage in High River is far beyond our imagination. It's great if we can help.

Collection for High River will be sent to Deacon Larry Driver to buy school supplies for children.

Mark your envelope "High River Flood Relief" or "Medicine Hat Flood Relief."

HOSPITALITY GREETERS MINISTRY

Your warm and friendly smile is needed by the Hospitality Greeters to Welcome Parishioners as they come in the door to attend Mass. If you are interested in this please call Mildred at 403-527-8838.

The new schedules are out for the present greeters to pick up.

The Parish would like to Thank Nora Jones, Catherine Lannan, Ron & Sharon Getz, Nick & Doreen Medwid and Elaine Wiedeman for all the times they welcomed us into church and wish them all the best in their future ministries.

GRIEF SHARE

We have incorporated a program called "Grief Share" into the Bereavement Ministry. Grief Share is a special weekly seminar/support group for people grieving the death of someone. It is a safe and confidential place where you can be around people

who understand how you feel and recognize the pain of your loss. At Grief Share you will learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life.

Holy Family Parish is hosting a Grief Share program (Christian Based) this fall. Our invitation is to anyone over the age of fifteen who is experiencing difficulties in grief recovery of the death of a loved one, spouse, parent, child, sibling or friend. Please share this information with other family members. The program will run for 13 weeks from September 9 to December 16 on Monday afternoons from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. The exception to the schedule is when the Monday falls on a holiday.

For more information or to register, please call Holy Family Parish office at 403-527-6933. Session size is limited; please register early.

Please Note: Grief Share is not a counselling service, but a support group.

RCIA

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Do you have a desire to learn about the traditions and teachings of the Catholic faith? Do you feel a need for a deeper understanding of our faith beliefs, in order to keep up with the religious education of your child (children)?

If so, perhaps you would be interested in the RCIA program at Holy Family Parish. The sessions are held every Wednesday evening from September to May/June. Preparations are now underway to begin a new year of spiritual growth and our first meeting date has been set for:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH @ 7:00-9:00 pm

Whether you are a baptized Catholic, or baptized in another Christian faith, or a non-baptized, you are always welcome to join us.

Further inquiries or questions about the RCIA Program can be directed to Pat @ 403- 527-1097 or the church office @ 403-527-6933.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

We are in need of 4 new members (one just verbally signed up) for the Parish Pastoral Council. If you are interested, please give Fr. Philip a call.

VACATION NOTICE

Fr. Matthew will be away for the next three weeks. Please pray for him to have a rested vacation and a good conference.



ADULT VOLUNTEER RETREAT

September 7th, 2013, 1:00-4:30pm @ Holy Family Parish.

For anyone interested in volunteering with the youth groups or family fun days. We will have time for prayer, group sharing, talks, and personal reflection. It will be training and orientation, but you don't have to be committed for sure to attend. Anyone who is thinking and praying about helping in the future may come!

For more info or to RSVP contact Louisa: medhatcatholicyouth@gmail.com or 403-527-6933

INTERESTED IN JOINING A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP?



What: a group of peers of your age that meet twice or more a month to talk about what's up with faith and life

Who: youth grades 8-12

When: during the school year

Why?: a chance to grow in fellowship, become closer friends, and talk about faith in a small group setting... Why not? ☺

To sign up **Email your:** name, age, grade, gender, and a fun fact to medhatcatholicyouth@gmail.com.

COMMUNION IN MARRIAGE

As you know, communication is very important in your marriage. Even though you live in the same house, eat at the same table and sleep on the same bed, but all these do not assure that you have good communication. Here are some "good" examples of communication:

Communication #1 An elderly couple was celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as the townspeople, really rose to the occasion and recognized them in every conceivable way. The mayor gave them the key to the small town; there was a brunch at the country club; an afternoon tea; a banquet that evening, and all congratulations. Finally, at about 10 o'clock that evening, the public celebration was over. As was his custom, the husband headed for the kitchen to prepare the buttered toast with jam and the small glass of milk which he and his wife always enjoyed just before retiring.

Perhaps it was due to exhaustion from a long day, but when the husband called his wife into the kitchen for their little snack, she broke into tears. Concerned, the husband rose, walked around the table, embraced his wife, and asked what the problem was. Teary-eyed, she said, "For the years we've been married, every night when we had our snack, you gave me the end piece of bread-and I never complained. But on this very special night I thought you would be gallant enough to offer me the best piece instead of the heel." The husband was shocked. "Why, sweetheart," he said, "I thought you understood that the end piece is my favourite part of the loaf. All these years I thought I was giving you the best piece!"

Communication #2 A woman went to her priest for counseling concerning her marriage. After a few preliminaries, the priest said he had a few questions that would help identify the problems. "Please answer the questions as openly as possible," he said. When the woman agreed, the priest began the questioning. "Do you have any grounds?" To which the lady responded, "Why, yes we do, we have about ten acres just north of town." "No, ma'am," the priest replied, "that's not what I mean. What I mean is do you have... well, do you have a grudge?" "Oh, no," she replied, "but we do have a nice little carport!" "No, ma'am," said the priest, "that's not what I mean. One more question: does your husband beat you up?" "Beat me up? Oh no, I get up before he does just about every morning!" Completely frustrated, the priest then said, "Lady, you're not listening to me. Just tell me why you are having trouble with your husband?" "Well," she said, "the man just doesn't know to communicate!"

Fr. Philip's:

The family of an elderly man who won 10 million dollars in 6/49 lottery was worried about him because he had a bad heart. They were afraid that when they informed him of the news he might drop dead from shock. So they went to see their priest hoping that he would find the best way to break the news. The priest called on his old parishioner and they talked for a while as old friends do until finally the priest said, "What would you do if you won 10 million dollars in the lottery?" The old man said without any hesitation, "I'd give 5 million to our church." Guess what? The parish priest dropped dead of shock! (Your parish priests are still alive, that means nobody offered them 5 million yet).

This Sunday's Second Reading is from the Letter to the Hebrews. This lengthy homily was addressed to Christians who were having second thoughts about their faith. Most of these Christians were second generation Christians. They didn't have the fervor as their parents had (Do you see the similarity to our generations: Parents are very religious; young and adult children are drifting away from the faith!). They also knew that the persecution of the Romans was just around the corner. Their response was to regret their faith, or simply, not to stand up for it. They complained, "Why is God letting this happen to us?" The spirit was that of depression. The Author of the Letter to the Hebrews told them that God loved them and was aware of their problems. However, the persecution, in the long run, would make them stronger in their faith. Then there was a classic expression: "Lift up your drooping hands, strengthen your weak knees and make straight path for your feet."

That is not a pleasant message in itself. The Gospel reading also follows this same thought. Someone asks Jesus, "Will only a few be saved?" Jesus responds, "Try to enter through the narrow door." The easy way does not lead to salvation. Following Jesus is always going to be a struggle. If we follow Jesus we are following him to Calvary.

In our society there are two extremely opposite lifestyles that militate against our following the Lord through the narrow door. On one side we have hedonism. On the other side we have fundamentalism. We are all tempted to follow a form of one or the other. They both present an easy way, not a narrow door.

Hedonism, the continually "pamper yourself" approach to life, says that anything and everything that gives us any form of pleasure whatsoever is good. There are no moral imperatives, because rules get in the way of pleasure. If Catholics believe that it is wrong to cheat on your spouse, "Well," the hedonist would say, "That's just the Church out of touch with reality." If Catholics say that abortion is a murder, then someone says, "That's just the Church who does not respect the rights of women."

Perhaps, that is the extreme view, but there are many times that we know that doing something is wrong, but we feel we've been good

enough in other areas so it would be OK to go along with the crowd in this one area. For instance, a person may feel that because she or he is a practicing faithful, it is OK to get drunk excessively or to gamble occasionally. But the Lord encourages us to enter through the narrow door, difficult gate. Don't let what everyone else is doing be our guide.

Maybe some of you are shocked when you read that fundamentalism also militates against following the Lord. I do not doubt the sincerity of the fundamentalists who are searching for the Lord in different ways. But I do doubt the sincerity of those who claim that they have been saved and therefore do not need to take responsibility for their past, present and future actions regarding faith, religious practices and morality. There are many people who think that just claiming that Jesus as their Lord and Savior is all that is necessary for salvation. That is too easy. A person could have a combination of a religious and an emotional experience and then spend the rest of his or her life seeking additional emotional experiences. This person does not have a view of his or her actions as leading them closer to the Lord or farther from him. The fundamentalist is already there. This is too easy. And many "fallen Catholics" have chosen this way. The other day, a lady told me that when seeing a former friend of hers, who had joined another church, the first question that friend asked was, "Are you still a Catholic? Join another church. It's much easier in other churches. There are no rules, not obligations, just believe that Jesus is the Lord and Savior then you will be saved!"

For us, Catholics, salvation is a process not a static event. We spend our lives fighting against our selfish inclinations. Christ saved us on the Cross. The journey of our lives is a struggle against our own selfish inclinations and a journey to the selflessness of the Cross. It is easy to stand before a group, to proclaim a spiritual acceptance of the Lord, and then to believe that the actions of the rest of our lives have no bearing on our status as saved by the Lord. Here I would like to remind the parents, who brought their children to the church for baptism. In the middle of the congregation you declared your faith in God and in the Catholic Church and renounced Satan for the sake of your children, do you follow up afterward? You promised to teach your children the way of faith, but how you do if you don't know your faith? You promised to give good examples to your children, would you consider living your marriage vows to the fullness? Was Baptism just an "external form" you had to do out then never lead your children through the narrow door that the Lord wants you to go through? It is hard to continually scrutinize our actions to see how well we are leading our Christian life. It is hard to continually refine our lifestyle as we are gradually transformed into a more sincere loving person.

All sacrifice is hard, yet Christianity demands continual sacrifice. That is hard. That is the narrow door. Today we ask the Lord to help us to lift up our drooping hand and strengthen our weak knees so we might follow him on the road to discipline and sacrifice, on the road to Calvary, through the narrow door which the Lord Jesus had gone before us.