



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

MAY 17TH, 2020 – 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A

Email: contact@holyfamilymh.ca ~ Website: www.holyfamilymh.ca ~ Facebook: Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish

Reconciliation: By Appointment Only 403-527-6933 ext 101

Office Hrs. Monday to Friday - 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm to 4:30pm - Closed on Holidays

LOVE SAVES US

Long ago there lived a merchant who had three daughters. Every year at a certain day of a certain month he went away to a distant city to collect money on an account. His wife and daughters remained at home, and all went well until one sad day the wife died. That year the merchant looked forward to his journey with dread for he would have to leave his daughters alone. "I cannot bear to go away," he said to them. "My heart is filled with fear lest some evil may befall you during my absence." He worried about the matter night and day. The business was most important and there was no one whom he could send to transact it for him. However, the question of leaving three such pretty girls unprotected was a thing not to be regarded lightly. "Do not be afraid to leave us, dear father," said his daughters. "Nothing will harm us while you are away." "How do you know?" asked their father. "I am older and wiser than you are, and I know that there are many evils which might come upon you. There are many bold thieves in this city, for instance, who would be only too ready to take advantage of my absence and rob my home of all I possess." "We can lock ourselves securely in the house and not let anyone enter," said the three daughters. "Be sure that you admit no one," commanded the merchant. They gave him their promise and he started on his journey. Nevertheless, he went with an anxious heart. Now, outside this city there was a band of bold robbers. The captain of the band had watched the merchant's departure, and when he was safely away the thief dressed himself in the disguise of an old beggar. When it was evening, he led his band into a nearby street and in his disguise approached the merchant's house. He knocked at the door. "Have pity upon a poor unfortunate one!" he called out. "It is raining outside, and no one with mercy in his heart could turn away one who begs shelter from the storm. Let me enter, I pray you, to pass the night under your roof."

"It's surely a terrible storm outside," said the merchant's eldest daughter, as the wind rattled the tiles of the roof and the rain beat in torrents against the doors and windows. "I think we ought to take pity on a poor beggar on a night like this." The second daughter peeped out of the window at the beggar. "He is old as well as poor," she said. "Our father has always taught us to show mercy and kindness to the aged." "Remember our promise to our father!" cried the youngest one. "We gave him our word that we would admit no one. We can give this poor beggar some alms and send him away with a blessing."

While they were talking, the beggar had taken the apples which the girls were to eat for dessert and had sprinkled a sleeping powder over them. The two eldest ate their apples, but the youngest could not eat that night. She threw the apple away. Suddenly she heard the noise and saw the robber had started collecting all their valuable items. After collecting everything he went to call to his companions for the help and that was the moment when younger sister got the courage to lock the door behind and was able to save her house.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” as St. John writes this in his Gospel. The love of God has worked right from the beginning of the universe when God created everything and especially the human beings. God is slow to anger and bounding in steadfast love who sent his only Son to save the world by dying on the Cross. To continue to share the same love, in the first reading the disciples are making efforts to bear testimony to the risen Lord. Through their efforts, the Samaritans received their Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. On this day, Peter performed his episcopal function by laying hands upon the new converts, anointing them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In the second reading, Peter encourages us to have reverence for Christ. Also, he advises us to treat all with respect even those who despise the gospel we preach. Hence, he reminds us of the animating power of the Holy Spirit even in the life of Christ: *“In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.”* It is the same spirit that raised Jesus that sustains us in the truth. This means that once the Spirit of God comes upon us, we become active for Christ, because: *“What gives life is the spirit of God”* (John 6, 63).

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks about love and wants his disciples to learn how to keep his commandments. *“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”*. Jesus being love, saves us everyday from the things happening around us. He calls us his friends and promises us to give us an Advocate to help us to understand that we are not alone, but he is with us. *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.” This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.*

An unknow author in the fourth century has written a beautiful note about the Christians *“Christians love all men, but all men persecute them. Condemned because they are not understood, they are put to death, but raised to life again. They live in poverty, but enrich many; they are totally destitute, but possess an abundance of everything. They suffer dishonor, but that is their glory. They are defamed, but vindicated. A blessing is their answer to abuse, deference their response to insult. For the good they do they receive the punishment of malefactors, but even then, they rejoice, as though receiving the gift of life”*. *During this pandemic, let us rejoice in the love of Jesus who saves us from every fear when evil calls us to be his friends.*

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid

May 17, 2020, 6th Sunday of Easter, Year-A

*“Make a Joyful noise to God,
all the earth.”*

Psalm 66



Photo by Fr. Iqbal Kurshid

COVID 19 UPDATE FROM THE DIOCESE

Things are getting better, and we must be thankful for that. According to the new Diocesan Directives Public Masses continue to be cancelled until further notice, however some good news is that grieving families will now be able to have up to 50 people including all staff at funerals with restrictions.

A MESSAGE FROM THE



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of Calgary

OPERATING FINANCES

<i>April 1 - 30, 2020</i>	
Operating Budget 2020	\$ 65,000
General Envelope Collection	\$ 32,697
Loose Collections	\$ 212
Future Development	\$ 2,104
Sale of Church Supplies	\$ 275
Youth Ministry	\$ 435
Shortfall	-\$ 29,277
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS	
Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 3,697
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 1,175
Mission Mexico	\$ 60
CARO	\$ 90
Seminary Fund	\$ 20
Pope's Pastoral Works	\$ 15
Holy Land	\$ 800
Catholic Education	\$ 100
Loonies for Lent this year	\$ 6,010
2020 TIA GOAL – \$71,214 TO DATE \$ 16,513 = 23% OF THE WAY	
<i>Thank You for your Generous Contributions</i>	

Office will be closed on Monday for Victoria Day. There will still be Adoration from 9:00am to 4:00pm.



We would like to thank everybody that has brought donations into the church or called in their donations.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

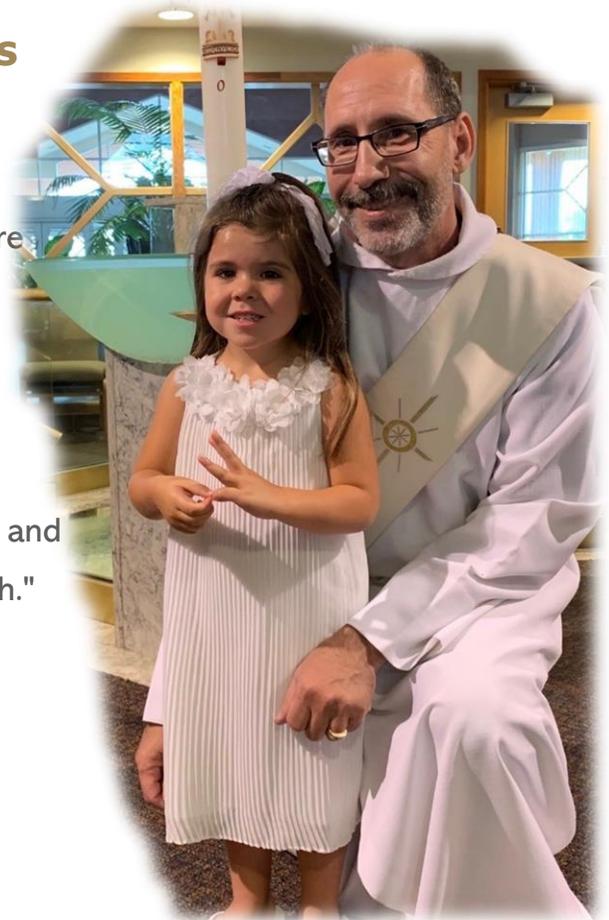
Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for Deacons

"Deacons are not second-level priests. They are part of the Clergy and live their vocation in and with their family. They are dedicated to the service of the poor, who carry within them the face of the suffering Christ. They are the guardians of service in the Church.

Let us pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church."

~ Pope Francis.

- [Message from Pope Francis](#)
- [Video Message from Pope Francis](#)



Catholic Education Week - May 18-22

We invite you to prepare for a first-ever virtual celebration of Catholic education in Alberta. Despite isolation, Catholic students are growing in faith and embracing their learning. Teachers, schools, school districts and families are adapting to the current educational environment. We invite you to celebrate Catholic Education with all of us.

Catholic Education Week of Prayer

Join the Bishops of Alberta, as they lead livestreamed prayers at 9 am each day:

- May 19 Holy Rosary - Bishop Terrio - [more info](#)
- May 20 Divine Mercy - Archbishop Pettipas - [more info](#)
- May 21 Mass - Archbishop Smith - [more info](#)
- May 22 Liturgy & Blessing - Bishop McGrattan - [watch here](#) | [more info](#)

Download:

- Bishops' letter for Catholic Education Week - [English](#) | [French](#)
- [Catholic Education Week Prayer](#)
- [Catholic Education Week Poster/Graphic](#)
- [GrAce Newsletter](#) - Special Edition

Prayers of the Faithful for Catholic Education

- *That our Catholic schools may be a source of hope for the young, we pray to the Lord.*
- *That our Catholic schools may fill students with a love for learning and a desire to change the world for the better, we pray to the Lord.*
- *That our Catholic schools may always be able to draw excellent and faith-filled teachers to serve in the classroom, we pray to the Lord.*
- *That our Catholic schools may be a blessing to families through their work with the young, we pray to the Lord.*

Webinars, Livestreams & Resources

1. [Finding Faith Podcast with Thomas Bouchard](#) | Dr. Thomas Bouchard, medical director of the Father Lacombe long-term care centre in southeast Calgary, one of the hardest hit regions of COVID-19 in Alberta, reflects on the remarkable character of those on the front-line of the pandemic, and the lessons we have all learned from these unexpected heroes on how to build a compassionate society. [Listen to podcast here.](#)
2. [Great Video/Shows for Children](#) | Are you looking for good video content for the kids at home? The Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the Diocese have put together a comprehensive list of faith based shows and programs worth checking out: <https://www.catholicyc.ca/blog/christian-video-programming-for-children>
3. [Parenting & Work from home](#) | Catholic Press Association is hosting Zoom meetings for the sharing of stories and tips for parents working from home, managing both work and children at the same time. When: **Thursday, May 21 at Noon (MT)**.
 - Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77937015358?pwd=NTBkSDNFbmJZSUh3bTdORDZ5dStGUlO9> ID: 779 3701 5358 | Password: 3xTCJD
4. [7 Ways Missionary Disciples Can Lead Parishes During Coronavirus](#) | We aren't sure what parishes and our communities will look like in the future, but there is great hope through our Holy Father's words, that we should be leading mission with 1) missionary creativity; 2) self-renewal and 3) constant adaptivity. *Proclaim*, Archdiocese of Vancouver's young adult ministry, listed seven ways missionary disciples can lead parishes during this time. [Read article](#)
5. [Christus Vivit: Pathway to Accompaniment](#) | This webinar series will provide an overview of the 10 major themes of *Christus Vivit* while introducing new resources from NFCYM designed to help you and the young people you serve explore and implement the document. Starting May 13, 2020 at Noon (MT). [Register here.](#)
6. [Vatican Radio Archive & App](#) | Vatican News, which brings you information about the Pope, the Vatican, and the Church in the world, launches an archive page to provide access to all articles ever published on Vatican Radio's website. <http://www.archivioradiovaticana.va/>

It is now possible to make your regular offertory gift online. Our parish relies on our regular offertory giving for maintenance and growth. By making your pre-authorized offertory gift, you are providing crucial support to care for your parish during this difficult time. You can also use the online giving page on the diocesan website to set up a one-time or recurring donation to your parish via credit-card. Funds donated will be transferred to the selected parish. Give now at <https://www.catholicyc.ca/give> or contact Ria at Holy Family Parish 403-527-6933 ext 4 make a donation by phone or set up monthly automated donations or jst bring in a cheque Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm.



**The Faith Room
Chapel is open
Sunday to Friday
9:00am to 4:00pm**