



# Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2020 – FEAST OF PENTECOST YEAR A

Email: [contact@holyfamilymh.ca](mailto:contact@holyfamilymh.ca) ~ Website: [www.holyfamilymh.ca](http://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

## RAYS OF ETERNAL HOPE & PEACE

Year 2020 started with hopelessness, stress and fear as COVID-19 pandemic became severe. The whole world went under lock down and it has caused a lot of issues including the suspension of public celebration of Holy Masses. The resumption of the public celebration of the Holy Masses this coming week, has given us true joy and happiness. The disciples did face the similar situation after the death of Jesus. They were all afraid and lost hope to live their normal lives, however with the promise and announcement of Jesus that he was going to send the Paraclete, or the Helper, we can imagine the joy and happiness of disciples felt. So today we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost: descending of Holy Spirit upon the disciples. It is a celebration of the birth of the Universal Church as well because they all became fearless witnesses to Jesus's love. We can understand this mystery with this little story...

Every Sunday, after the morning service at their church, the Pastor and his 11-year-old son would go out into their town and hand out Gospel tracts. One particular Sunday, as it came time for the Pastor and his son to go to the streets with their tracts, it was very cold outside as well as pouring down rain. The boy bundled up in his warmest and driest clothes and said "Okay Dad, I'm ready." His Pastor Dad asked, "Ready for what?" "Dad, it's time we gather our tracts together and go out." "Dad responds, "Son, it's very cold outside, and it's pouring down rain." The boy gives his Dad a surprised look, asking, "But Dad, aren't people still going to Hell, even though it's raining?" Dad answers, "Son, I am not going out in this weather." Despondently the boy asks, "Dad, can I go? Please?" His father hesitated for a moment but said, "You can go. Here are the tracts; be careful, son." "Thanks Dad!"

And with that, he was off and out into the rain. This 11-year-old boy walked the streets of the town, going door-to-door and handing everybody, he met in the street a Gospel tract. After hours of walking in the rain, he was soaking bone-chilled wet and down to his very last tract. He stopped on a corner and looked for someone to hand a tract to, but the streets were totally deserted. Then, he turned toward the first home he saw and started up the sidewalk to the front door and rang the doorbell. He rang the bell, but nobody answered. He rang it again and again, but still no one answered. He waited, but still no answer. Finally, this 11-year-old trooper turned to leave, but something stopped him. Again, he turned to the door and rang the bell and knocked loudly on the door with his fist. He waited, something holding him there on the front porch. He rang again, and this time the door slowly opened. Standing in the doorway was a very sad looking elderly lady.

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

She called to him as he departed, "Thank you, son! And God bless you!" The following Sunday morning in church, Pastor Dad was in the pulpit and as the service began, he asked, "Does anybody have a testimony or want to say anything?"

Slowly, in the back row of the church, an elderly lady stood to her feet. As she began to speak, a look of glorious radiance came from her face. "My husband passed on some time ago, leaving me totally alone in this world. There was no point for me to live and I decided to end my life. When suddenly, the loud ringing of my doorbell downstairs startled me. I thought, 'I'll wait a minute, and whoever it is will go away.' I waited and waited, but the ringing doorbell seemed to get more insistent and then the person ringing also started knocking loudly. I thought to myself again, 'Who on earth could this be?! Nobody ever rings my bell or comes to see me!' I loosened the rope from my neck and started for the front door. All the while, the bell rang louder and louder. When I opened the door and looked, I could hardly believe my eyes! There on my front porch was the most radiant and angelic little boy I had ever seen in my life! His smile! Oh, I could never describe it to you! And the words that came from his mouth caused my heart, that had long been dead, to leap to life as he exclaimed with a cherub-like voice, 'Ma'am, I just came to tell you that JESUS REALLY DOES LOVE YOU.'

The gift & promise of Holy Spirit is the greatest source of rays of Eternal Hope and Peace for the world which has lost its hope and healing. St. Paul speaks so beautifully about the Holy Spirit in his Epistles *"and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."* (Romans 5:5). He continues to highlight the importance of the Holy Spirit *"For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"*. Furthermore *"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?"* he helps us to know that Holy Spirit is always with us.

Let us today as we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost always remember God the Father, allowed His Son, Jesus, to go out into a cold and dark world to bring the message of hope and life. Before His Son left the world, he promised to send the Holy Spirit who is rays of eternal hope and peace to the broken world facing the pandemic. Let us pray: *"Holy Spirit of light and love, you are the substantial love of the Father and the Son; hear our prayer. Bounteous giver of most precious gifts, grant us a strong and living faith which makes us accept all revealed truths and shape our conducts in accord with them. Give us most confident hope in all divine promises which prompts us to abandon ourselves unreservedly to you and your guidance. Infuse into us a love of perfect goodwill, and act according to God's least desires. Make us love not only our friends but our enemies as well, in imitation of Jesus Christ who through you offered himself on the Cross for all people. Holy Spirit, animate, inspire, and guide us, and help us to always be a true follower of you. Amen."*

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid

Feast of Pentecost Year A - May 31, 2020

## 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
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>-\$ 29,277</b>
<b>SPECIAL COLLECTIONS</b>	
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>	

## Pentecost Sunday – Year A Sunday, May 31, 2020

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Acts 2.1-11

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit  
and began to speak.

### Responsorial Psalm – Ps 104.1ab+24ac, 29b-30, 31+34 (R.30)

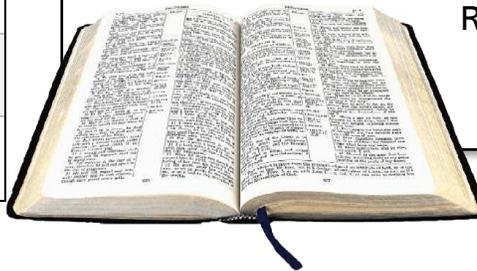
R. Lord, send forth your Spirit,  
And renew the face of the earth.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – 1 Corinthians 12.3b-7, 12-13

In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one  
body.

### Gospel – Matthew 28.16-20

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.  
Receive the Holy Spirit.



LORD, SEND  
FORTH YOUR  
**SPIRIT**  
AND RENEW THE  
FACE OF THE EARTH.

PSALM 104





ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**DIOCESE**  
of Calgary

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PENTECOST SUNDAY

**MONDAY, JUNE 1ST MASSES WILL BEGIN.**

**THERE ARE MANY GUIDELINES WE ALL MUST FOLLOW.**

- 1. The dispensation of the faithful from obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in place until decreed otherwise by the Bishop. No one is obliged to attend Holy Mass while this dispensation is in effect.**
- 2. Those 65 years of age or older or individuals with chronic medical conditions, are encouraged to avoid public gatherings but are not prohibited from attending Mass.**
- 3. Anyone attending Mass does so at their own risk.**
- 4. There will be no scheduled Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, or Eucharistic Ministers required until further notice.**
- 5. We can only have 50 people at any given Mass including the Priest and Volunteers.**
- 6. We ask you to provide & wear a face mask. If you choose not to wear a mask you are choosing to refrain from receiving communion. And Please remember physical distancing.**
- 7. You will be required to pre-register for the Mass you would like to attend by calling into the office by Friday of the weekend.**
- 8. We are asking all parishioners to only attend 1 Mass a week so that everybody gets a chance to attend. If a Mass is not full you may be able to come and check 15 minutes before the Mass time, but please do not be upset if you get turned away because it is full. Remember point #1. Registration is Mandatory by Government Regulations only to accessed for tracking in case of an outbreak.**
- 9. When you arrive at the church you will use the Administration Doors only.**
- 10. You will be screened and then asked to sanitize your hands and then ushered to a pew. Families with children must always keep their children with them.**
- 11. There will be no music at Mass. Collection will be in a basket by the Baptismal Font.**
- 12. For this Stage 1 the Priest will offer a general attestation while at the Altar of "The Body of Christ" at which time the congregation shall respond "Amen". The congregation will form one single line, remembering social distancing and proceed to receive Communion in their hand. In the present circumstances, Communion will not be distributed on the tongue. This is a temporary measure to be reviewed on an on-going basis in accordance with developing medical advice.**
- 13. After Mass, the congregation is to exit the church immediately, if you feel the need to visit with somebody it will have to be outside.**

**MASSES – MONDAY TO FRIDAY AT 9:00AM, SATURDAY AT 9:00AM & 5:00PM,  
SUNDAY AT 8:30AM, 10:30AM & 6:00PM... CALL 403-527-6933 TO REGISTER!**



Reconciliation is still by appointment only Monday to Friday  
Call the office to book a time with Fr. Iqbal or Fr. VJ

**WANT TO TRY SOMETHING  
NEW DURING THIS  
PANDEMIC?  
CONSIDER SIGNING UP  
FOR THIS ON-LINE  
RETREAT ON LIVING A  
BALANCED LIFE - OUR  
FIRST VENTURE OF THIS  
KIND OUT OF THE STAR OF  
THE NORTH RETREAT  
HOUSE.**

I am teaming up with two  
Oblates here in Edmonton  
to offer this unique time of  
personal growth and  
healing to you wherever in  
the world you are.

To register, click on this  
link, go to programs and  
continue down to tickets:  
<https://www.starofthenorth.ca/register/browse/programs-2/event/online-retreat-living-a-balanced-life-in-challenging-times-physical-mental-emotional-and-spiritual-162/>

We are looking forward to  
sharing this exciting event  
with you.

**+ Sylvain OMI**

**“For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, says the Lord.” Jeremiah 30:17**

My Dear Parish Family

I hope this letter will find all of you in good health and spirits as well. This COVID-19 PANDEMIC has not only affected our physical life but spiritual as well. This is most devastating time for all of us to find the right answers to questions arising from this pandemic and how to deal with them. However, this pandemic has also helped us to spend more time in prayer with our friends and family. Please continue to do the same asking the Lord to heal and protect everyone.

As all of you know the celebration of the Public Holy Masses are going to resume on June 1<sup>st</sup>, with limited numbers and lot of restrictions. I know everyone is desperate to attend the Holy Mass and to receive the Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. However, I would like to request everyone to be a “Good Samaritan” to their neighbors so that everyone can attend Holy Mass. Furthermore, if you are a member of Holy Family Parish, register yourself for the Mass by calling the Parish Office from Monday to Friday between 8:30-4:30, with the exception of noon hour. Also please avoid registering yourself at St. Patrick Parish as their parishioner want to attend the Mass as well. This is a temporary situation and I am hoping we will be allowed to celebrate Holy Masses with a bigger crowd soon.

I would like to advise everyone please follow our Face Book page & website for more updates and information regarding the COVID\_19 pandemic. I would also like to encourage everyone to consider volunteering in the Church as we will be needing more to help us with all the protocols and guidelines set for the safety of other.

I am grateful for all your support and prayers and hoping to see you in the Church to celebrate Holy Masses together with one heart and mind.

In Jesus' name... Fr. Iqbal