

# HOLY FAMILY PARISH

11/18/2012 Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



1451 Strachan Road SE, Medicine Hat, AB T1B-4V3 Phone: 403-527-

6933 Fax: 403-526-2482

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

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



Gospel Acclamation (Luke 21.36)

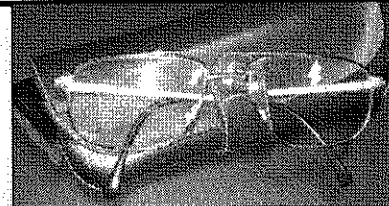
**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Be alert at all times, praying that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.

**Alleluia.**

## PARISH BREAKFAST- SUNDAY NOV. 18<sup>TH</sup>

The Knights of Columbus # 7325  
will be hosting the Parish Breakfast on  
Sunday, November 18th  
after both the 8:30 and the 10:30 Masses.



IF YOU CAN'T SEE THIS PICTURE,  
IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE WE HAVE  
YOUR GLASSES. PLEASE CLAIM  
THEM AT THE PARISH OFFICE.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_



# 33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 17/18, 2012

**First Reading** (Dan 12:1-3). The prophet Daniel receives an apocalyptic revelation from the angel Michael concerning the persecution of Israel. Belief in the resurrection of the dead and life everlasting are introduced into the Hebrew religious tradition in this passage.

**Second Reading** (Heb 10:14,18). Jesus the Great High Priest offered his own self as a sin offering in order to secure definitive forgiveness of sins for all who seek it. In heaven Jesus continues to intercede for his followers and also his enemies.

**Gospel** (Mk 13:24-32). Cosmic signs will herald the coming of the Son of Man to earth. The elect will be gathered together by angels. Vigilance is required because the exact time of this occurrence is unknown to everyone but God.

## OPERATING FINANCES

(November 8-November 15, 2012)

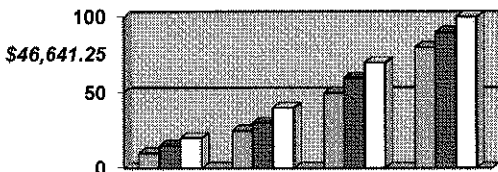
-Cost to operate our Parish (Budget)	\$16,500
-General Collections:	\$10,884
-Debt reduction (Mortgage)	\$ 3,946
-Total parish support:	\$14,830
-Exceed of (Shortfall)	(\$ 1,670)

### Special Collections;

***Together in Action:.....	\$605
***World Missions:.....	\$56
***St Vincent de Paul:.....	\$1,053
***NET Ministries:.....	\$660
***Catholic Education Sunday:.....	\$365
***CARO:.....	\$20

TIA up to date: \$46,641.25/\$59,979.00 (78%)

Together In Action



Thank you for your generosity and support

## Upcoming Events in our Parish and Mass Intentions

The daily Mass may be canceled in the case of a funeral

### SUN. NOV 18<sup>TH</sup> 33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- + Library: open after 8:30 & 10:30 Masses
- +Parish Breakfast after 8:30 & 10:30 Masses: Host – K of C #7325.
- + Unchained Youth: 6:00pm Mass & in the Parish Hall

### MON. NOV 19<sup>TH</sup>

- + **Mass-9:00am** (Intention: Edith Reddon ☩)
- + Circle of Friends Charismatic Prayer Group: 7:00pm · St. Joseph's Home

### TUES. NOV 20<sup>TH</sup>

- + St Vincent de Paul Meeting: 4:00pm in the Hope Room
- + **Mass: 7:00pm** (Intention: Neil & Bernice Jangula)
- + **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**  
After Mass until 8:30pm
- + Catholics Coming Home: 7:00pm in the Hope Room

### WED. NOV 21<sup>ST</sup> – The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- + Women's Praise & Worship: 6:45am – Faith Room
- + **Mass: 8:20am** at St. Francis School
- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: Joe Sehn)
- + Breakfast after Mass
- + Bible Study: 9:30am – Faith Room
- + **Mass: 1:30pm** – Sunnyside
- + Ministry to the aged: 3:30pm – Good Samaritans
- + Choir for 6:00 Mass: 6:00 – Church
- + RCIA: 7:00 pm – Faith Room

### THURS. NOV 22<sup>ND</sup> – St. Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr

- + Men's Prayer Group: 6:30am – Charity Room
- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: Tim & Cici McKeigue)
- + Breakfast after Mass
- + **Holy Hour:** 6:00pm – Chapel
- + Rediscovering Catholicism: 7:00pm – Parish Hall "The Gospel of St. Luke, Part 3"
- + Choir for 8:30 & 10:30 Masses: 7:00pm in the Church

## **FRI. NOV 23<sup>rd</sup>**

---

- + Religious Education Meeting: 7:30am in the Faith Room
- + **Mass: 9:00am** (Intention: Tammy O'Reilly)
- + **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** After Mass until Noon
- + Breakfast after Mass
- + **Mass: 10:00am** – The Wellington
- + Ministry to the aged: 10:00am – Meadowlands
- + EQUIP: 7:00-9:00pm – Holy Family Hall

## **SAT, NOV 24<sup>th</sup> – St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest & Companions, Martyrs**

---

- + That Man is You: 8:30am – St. Patrick's Church
- + FAMILY FUN DAY: 2:00-4:00pm – Holy Family Hall
- + Confirmation Class: 4:00pm – St. Patrick's Church
- + 1<sup>st</sup> Communion/Reconciliation: 4:45pm – St. Patrick's Church
- + **Reconciliation:** 3:00 – 4:00pm
- + Choir for 5:00 Mass: 4:00pm – Church
- + Library: open before Mass
- + **34<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – CHRIST THE KING**
- + **Mass: 5:00pm** (Intention: Jimmy Hebert ☩)

## **SUN. NOV 25<sup>th</sup> – CHRIST THE KING 34<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

---

- + **Mass: 8:30am** (Intention: Noel Gomes ☩)
- + 1<sup>st</sup> Communion/Reconciliation: 10:15am – Faith Room
- + **Mass: 10:30am** (Intention: Holy Family Parish)
- + Library: open after morning Masses
- + Confirmation Class: 5:00pm – Faith Room
- + **Mass: 6:00pm** (Intention: Elaine Marsh ☩)
- + Unchained Youth: 6:00pm Mass & in the Parish Hall

## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

---

If you can 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

## **RECONCILIATION AND PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

---

1. During Advent, a priest is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at every Catholic church in the Diocese of Calgary, including Holy Family and St. Pat's, on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 pm (Dec. 5, 12 and 19)
2. Several priests will come for Penitential Service at St. Pat's on Tuesday Dec. 11 and at Holy Family Dec. 18 at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome

## **PARISH BREAKFAST- SUNDAY NOV. 18<sup>TH</sup>**

---

The Knights of Columbus # 7325 will be hosting the Parish Breakfast on Sunday, November 18th after both the 8:30 and the 10:30 Masses.

## **NEW OFFERINGS ENVELOPES**

---

Pick yours up in the foyer. If you do not currently have envelopes & would like some please contact the parish office.

## **VISITING THE LONELY & HOMEBOUND**

---

Perhaps you know of someone in your complex or near where you live or even a family member who would like to have someone visit with them, pray with them or share with them the gospel of the day, please let us know and someone from the Visiting Ministry Team could spend an hour with them. If you have someone in mind please ask them if they would like us to come to their home then let us know by phoning Mildred at 403-527-5147 or Bernice at 403-580-2905. May God bless all the good work you do for His kingdom.

## **INVITATION TO WRITE A TESTIMONY...**

---

We invite you to share your faith filled story: why are you continuing to practice your faith; or why did you come back to the Church? Or what is your conversion story? What do you appreciate about your faith; you can write 250 words more or less for the bulletin, or just come to talk to a priest or a secretary and we will write them down for you. If you wish, you don't have to sign your real name.

## **TIMOTHY P. SCHMALZ STATUES**

---

Please take time to notice the statues for sale in the display case in the greeting area. If you would like to purchase one of these please come in during regular business hours. All money will be going to the Debt Reduction Fund. These will make great Christmas gifts.

## **BOOK OF LIFE...**

### **REMEMBERING THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

---

During the month of November, you are invited to inscribe the names of loved ones who died during the past year in the book of life. If you have inscribed names in the past, it is not necessary to add those names again as we keep the pages each year. You can enter the names on a page for everyone, or if you have a number of people you wish to remember, you can make your own "family page", and put it in the binder alphabetically and add to your own page every year.

## WANTED: SNACK VOLUNTEERS FOR THE NET TEAM

---

We are looking for people to make or buy snacks for the youth nights at Holy Family & St. Patrick Parishes.

**Please call us if you can help!**

Trish Carr 529-6824 [btcarr@shaw.ca](mailto:btcarr@shaw.ca) for St. Patrick's or

Lynn O'Byrne 526-4025 [lynn.obyrne@telus.net](mailto:lynn.obyrne@telus.net) for Holy Family

## POSTURE DURING THE COMMUNION

---

The first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 1, marks as the first anniversary of our new translation of the Mass. We have done the transition very well as far as I am concerned. There is one thing I never mentioned in the changes. That is the posture during the Communion. Here is the directive from the Diocese of Calgary:

*"The common posture of STANDING CONTINUES DURING THE COMMUNION PROCESSION AND SINGING OF THE COMMUNION SONG. This practice teaches us that Communion is a corporate action in which we together are drawn into the Eucharistic mystery and the life of the Trinity. Singing together helps us realize our communion together in the Risen Lord."*

We will begin this practice on the FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT this year. Of course, if you cannot stand for any reason, you can sit or kneel. Thanks. Fr. Philip

## ALL EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

---

This includes everyone who serves at Masses during the week and on weekends, those who take Eucharist to individual homes, the Ministry to Aged and those taking Eucharist to the hospital. THE ANNUAL MEETING & SOCIAL will be held in the Parish Hall on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6th. Come at 6:00pm, Meal at 6:30pm and Meeting to follow. Please RSVP to Marianne by email [mariesisca@yahoo.ca](mailto:mariesisca@yahoo.ca) or phone 403-527-4878. Team Captains at weekend Masses are asked to Please Contact Members of their teams and report how many will be attending. Volunteers to help at the door and with clean-up would be greatly appreciated.



## BISHOP CARROLL ASSEMBLY 4<sup>TH</sup> DEGREE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

---

Executive Meeting at 2:00pm and Business Meeting at 2:30pm on November 18<sup>th</sup> in the basement at St. Patrick's Church.

## NET TEAM UPDATE

---

**Equip...** Join the NET team on Friday Nov. 23rd for a night called "Why I love Jesus and Religion"! We take a look at the popular YouTube video by Jefferson Bethke "Why I love Jesus but hate religion" and will talk about how we respond to it as Catholics. We want to hear what you have to say! Come out from 7pm-9pm Friday Nov. 23rd at Holy Family Parish! If you can't make it on the 23rd, join us on Friday Nov. 30th from 7-9pm at St. Patrick's Church for the same topic! See you there!

**Unchained...** The NET team will be hosting a movie night this Sunday Nov. 18th from 7pm-9pm at Holy Family Parish! This night is open to Grades 10-12, so bring a friend, come sit back and relax and enjoy the Feature Presentation "The Princess Bride"! Hope to see you there!

On Sunday Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> the NET team will be hosting a night called "Priorities", where we will talk about how to listen to God's voice and make God your number one priority! Join us from 7pm-9pm at Holy Family Parish on Sunday Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>!

**Family Fun Day...** With Advent just around the corner, the NET team invites all families to join us for an afternoon of making Advent Wreaths and drinking Hot Chocolate! A great way to prepare for the Advent Season! Join us on Saturday Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-4pm at Holy Family! Hope to see you there!

**Thank you to Darrel & Dawn Bonogofski and Pat & Karen Roche** who are hosting now (Nov 15- 29).

**An invitation to the parish: Say 'YES' to adopting a host family.** Call Dianna 403-527-4338 for more information.

**Host Homes are needed for the remaining weeks of 2012:**

Nov 29 – Dec 17 – 2 F or Nov 29 – Dec 17 – 2 F

The NET will be going home, Dec 17<sup>th</sup>, returning on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>.

To host call 403-527-4338 or email: [hdfrey@shaw.ca](mailto:hdfrey@shaw.ca).

**Note:** There are couples ready to 'Adopt a Family'.

You will receive a call from 'a couple' who will suggest how they wish to help.

**NOTE: The housing guidelines from Net Ministries**

1. No one team member should ever be housed alone.
2. A minimum of two team members of the same gender can be housed together.
3. Each home may take from 2-4 members.
4. Host homes may take the team members for 2 weeks to a few months.

If you would like to host in 2013, please call 403-527-4338. Thank you!



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU from the CWL to Circles 2,4 & 7 for organizing the Parish Supper. A Special Thanks to the Ladies and Gentlemen who helped with the serving and the clean-up. Thank you to all the Parishioners who donated food, items and or money, and to all who purchased tickets to support the event. Thank you to the Catholic Girl's League for decorating the hall. We all had fun and the food was terrific.

CWL Christmas Bake Sale will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> weekend Masses. Details to follow.

Time is Precious

Are you searching for something worthwhile that makes the best use of your time and talents?

Consider the CWL!

Your commitment could be as easy as maintaining an inexpensive yearly membership, even when you are unable to attend meetings or other events. As time permits, you may enjoy helping with one project.

You will notice that prayer and a spirit of joy are important parts of CWL projects as members journey together in faith. Fresh ideas are always welcome; share them with the new friends that await you.

The benefits of the CWL are eternal! Life is a series of new beginnings; make the CWL a priority in your life!

Come Join Us! For more information call Rita at (403)527-7580

## **SACRAMENT CLASSES**

Next class will be Saturday November 24<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick's Church  
Confirmation – 4:00pm in church hall entering in west hall entrance  
1<sup>st</sup> Comm/Rec – 4:45 entering in east side office entrance.

Sunday November 25<sup>th</sup> at Holy Family Church

1<sup>st</sup> Comm/Rec – 10:15 in Faith Room

Confirmation – 5:00pm in Faith Room

ALL PARENTS – please work with child at home to make sure all worksheets are up to date.

For those who have not already done so please call in your child's baptism dates to Holy Family Parish office.

## **THE VIGIL FOR LIFE**

In the Spirit of entering the Year of Faith and the Centennial celebrations of our Calgary Diocese, on the Feast Of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Saturday Dec 8, we the clergy and the faithful of St. Patrick's and Holy Family Parishes will gather for a Potluck supper after the 5:00 pm mass in St. Patrick's Parish Hall. After supper, at 7 pm we will gather together to pray the Vigil for Life. Please mark your calendars, bring your favorite dish and join us.

## **JUNIOR CHOIR**

\*\*\***Change of Title:** Children's/Youth Choir is now called the "**JUNIOR CHOIR**". The next mass led by the Junior Choir will be 6:00pm Sunday November 25<sup>th</sup> at Holy Family Parish. Practice will be Thursday Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 at Holy Family.

### **5:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE MASS**

**Anyone Grade 3 and UP** who would like to sing at Holy Family's 5:00pm Christmas Eve mass please call Sally at Holy Family Parish 527-6933. Practices will begin **3:00 – 4:00pm Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>** at Holy Family Parish.

## **HOLY FAMILY PARISH 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FAMILY GIFT SHARING SUNDAY**

### **DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> – The First Sunday of Advent**

Make the Christmas season more enjoyable for families and individuals in need in our community. Parishioners can bring gifts (unwrapped toys, non-perishable food items or monetary donations) before all masses on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The **unwrapped toys** can be placed in the alcove by the Mary statue. **Non-perishable food items** can be placed in the alcove by the Jesus and Saints statue. All **monetary donations** can be placed in the donation box near the altar. Please make cheques payable to "Holy Family Parish – Needs for the Poor". If you wish to donate cash and would like a tax receipt, please include your name and address.

**Please note:** *If you are unable to bring the items December 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>, please bring them before that date. **Please do not bring items after December 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Thank you for your cooperation.*

**Lord God, bless this day for me and all of us.  
Make it a day in which we grow a little more like your Son,  
and gentle as Mary His Mother.**

## **NEW SAINT JOSEPH SUNDAY MISSAL**

The New St. Joseph Sunday Missal, Prayerbook & Hymnal 2013 has arrived at Holy Family and is available for you to get. We are asking \$3.00 per copy. You can get yours today at the Hospitality Desk or if nobody is at the desk copies are available at the display rack and we trust that you will put the money in the cash box.

## **THE GREAT CANADIAN BARN DANCE**

Featuring The Kunkel Family at Holy Family Parish. Friday, April 12, 2013 is a Dinner & Show for \$28.00 Saturday, April 13, 2013 is a Dance & Light Lunch for \$20.00 If you buy for both nights it is a combined price of \$45.00 Tickets are available at the Holy Family Parish office. This would be a great Christmas gift!

## REDISCOVERING CATHOLICISM

Nov. 22, at 7 pm

You are invited to join the **REDISCOVERING CATHOLICISM** at Holy Family Parish on Thursday Nights from 7 to 9 pm hosted by Fr. Philip and our pastoral team. It is a very relaxing night to review our faith understating. Please try one. We promise not to disappoint you. From the first Sunday of Advent this year to the end November, 2013, the Sunday Gospel readings will be taken from St. Luke's Gospel. We will spend 9 sessions to look closely at the Gospel of St. Luke. That will help us when we hear it again at Mass. The topic for this week is: "**The Gospel of St. Luke, part 3.**"

- What do you think about the vocations in the Church today?
- Why did Jesus speak to only Simon at the catch of fish?
- Did Luke recognize the leadership of Peter?
- The "Bark of Peter" what is it?
- Why did Peter say "depart from me Lord?"
- Why did Jesus touch the untouchable?
- Leprosy, how did Jesus deal with it?
- Who can forgive sins?
- Who is Levi?
- Did Jesus like food?
- Who are the Twelve? Can you recite their names?
- What is the difference between the Beatitudes in Matthew's and that in Luke's?
- The golden rule, what is it?
- Why did the centurion say "I am not worthy?"
- Why did Jesus raise a dead to life?
- The public sinner, who is she?
- Who are the women from Galilee?

**Next meeting: Nov. 29 at 7 pm: The Gospel of St. Luke, part 4**



## ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY

### Centennial Committee



Come and celebrate the centennial of our Diocese. The Opening Mass which marks the beginning of our Centennial Year will be held on **Friday,**

**November 30 at 7 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral, Calgary**

(219 – 18th Avenue SW). For more information visit:

<http://www.calgarydiocese.ca>

### Social Justice Ministry

**The Gospel Call to Solidarity With the Poor In the World: Our Moral Imperative to Greater Involvement in Development and Peace** - Do you want to know more about Catholic Social Teaching?

Do you want to know more about what Development and Peace does, how it does it and why it is important? Do you want to know how you can better live your faith consistent with Catholic Social Teaching and help D & P fulfill their mandate in the Global South?

The Diocesan Development and Peace Committee is hosting a full-day workshop on God's Call to Each One of Us to Greater Solidarity with the Poor in the World. Throughout the Bible, the Prophets, Gospels, and Letters to Christians challenge us all to work towards justice by serving the poor. Come and learn about what the Lord requires of you to do justice in the world. All Are Welcome! **Special invitation to Clergy, Youth Ministers, Teachers, and Parish Social Justice Reps. Workshop** will be held at **St. Anthony's Parish (5340 - 4 Street S.W., Calgary)** on **Saturday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-4:00pm, includes lunch and refreshments.** To register and for more information, please contact Dave Delainey at 403-241-2634 or email [dwdelain@shaw.ca](mailto:dwdelain@shaw.ca).

### Emergency Appeals for Food Crisis in West Africa (Sahel Region), Flooding in Manila, Philippines, & Syrian Refugee Crisis

The Diocese of Calgary is accepting financial donations to assist the victims affected by these crises. For details about each specific appeal and how you can contribute, view the diocesan website at <http://www.calgarydiocese.ca/>. For further questions, please contact Jana at the Social Justice Office at 403-218-5519 or e-mail [socialjustice@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:socialjustice@calgarydiocese.ca).

**Development and Peace** has raised 1.8 million dollars towards the Sahel region. Though the government matching has ended, we still continue to collect funds for the Sahel

### FUNDRAISER for Project Rachel - 2013 "A Song for Rachel"

**calendar** featuring all churches that have hosted the event, the feast days of the Catholic Church, and local events. Cost per calendar is \$15.00 or \$25.00 for two. Contact the Life & Family Resource Centre for orders at 403-218-5505.

**Effective Co-Parenting: Putting Kids First** is a 5-evening program for those parenting through separation or divorce. Co-parents should ideally not attend the series together, as this is an educational, not counseling, program. Topics covered include best practices for communication with a former spouse, and needs of children experiencing separation/divorce in the family with developmentally-appropriate ideas for every stage from infants/toddlers, through school-aged, to teens and young adults. Contact the Life and Family Resource Centre at 403-218-5504 for more information, upcoming dates, and/or registration.

The **Calgary Diocesan Marriage Preparation** program "For Better and For Ever", accepts all couples preparing for marriage. Smaller group settings allow us to focus on couples in one or more of the following circumstances: living together, previously married, beginning marriage with children, couples 45+, or those who wish to have their marriage blessed in the Church. For information and/or to register call the Life and Family Resource Centre at 403-218-5504 email [lifeandfamily@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:lifeandfamily@calgarydiocese.ca). **Next available program is Jan 14, Feb 1-2, 2013.**

## Fr. Philip's

---

A senior was on a flight. She sat beside a young businessman. After the in-flight meal she took out her Holy Bible and started her devotion.

The businessman glanced at her and said. Do you really believe those stuff in that book is true?

"Well, yes, as a matter of fact I do," said the old lady.

"Yeah, right..." the man scoffed, "like... what's that guy's name, the one who got swallowed by a whale..."

"You mean Jonah?"

"Yeah, Jonah, I mean, how do you actually survive for 3 days in a fish's bowel?"

"I don't know," replied the old lady, "but I can ask him when I die and see him in heaven someday."

Feeling smart, the young man said: "Ok, but what if he's not in heaven because he went to hell?"

"Then young man, \*you\* can ask him" replied the old lady.

***The moral of the story is: don't mess up with the senior's wisdom!***

Do you remember the term "Y2K?" 12 years ago all we heard was that Y2K was coming. We heard that computers would fail, electricity, water, and other utilities would be disrupted, governments would no longer be able to function, and the general chaos would result in the end of the world, or at least the end of the world as we knew it. Some people bought supplies to keep them alive for a few months. Spam!

The world as we know it didn't end January 1, 2000. No one was disappointed in that. Furthermore, we were all ecstatic that we would no longer hear the term Y2K. Our little pseudo apocalyptic experience can help us understand the experience of the Early Church as presented in today's Gospel. Christians of the first century expected an immanent Second Coming of the Lord. When they came to grips with the experience of the Word Become Flesh, Jesus becoming one of them, when they reflected on his death and resurrection as the pivotal point of the history of human, they were absolutely convinced the Second Coming and the end were upon them. When the Parousia, the Second Coming of the Lord, did not occur, the early Church found itself in a "**soon, but not yet**" state of preparation.

Unlike the survivalists who celebrated the new millennium in their bunkers with bottled water and chips, the early Church and the Church for all ages, did not and do not see the exercise of preparing for the Second Coming as futile if the end of the world is delayed. Rather, it is reasonable to always be prepared for our final union with God.

When I was a seminarian, we had a monthly spiritual exercise that may seem to be quite morbid, but really quite

realistic. We called this monthly day of retreat the Exercise for a Happy Death. Here we were, some 25 people from 18 to 40 year olds, living in one of the most beautiful areas of the country, yet we were spending a day each month to consider our death. We meditated on our readiness to meet the Lord. What adjustments did we have to make to our lives? Were we at peace with God? There was nothing frantic, chaotic or depressing about this exercise. Our minds were focused on preparing for the end in a calm preparation for the inevitable.

A man in our parish, who just learned that he was terminal, asked me what he had to do to prepare for death. He had already received the sacraments and made his peace with God. I told him that the most important thing for him to do was to have hope and faith in God and enjoy each day that he had left as a gift from the Lord.

At the end of the Church Liturgical Year, we consider the end of time. The Gospel uses apocalyptic terminology and symbolism to convey the necessity for our own preparation, but as people of faith, we live each day with a tranquility that demonstrates our hope in God.

When the third millennium approached, the Church reminded us not to assume we knew the day or the hour of the Parousia, the Second Coming of the Lord. Each year the Church also reminds us that we still always need to be ready. We trust in God. We are to live our lives calmly preparing for our meeting with God be it at the end of time or the end of our own personal time. We should live as every day is the last day of our life on earth.

The senior and the businessman in the story at the beginning mentioned **3 last things: death, heaven and hell.** The fourth they left out is "**Judgment.**"

Judgment is an act of the mind affirming or denying something. God's judgment is his affirmation of a decision we make as to whether we want to spend eternity with him in heaven. God's judgment reflects the objective condition of our soul. It has no relation at all to whether we "feel holy." In fact, our feelings are apt to deceive us. As a soul comes closer to Christ it becomes more and more aware of the contrast between Christ's perfection and its own shortcomings. Its sins become clear. As it strives toward the perfection it can never reach, the remaining sins loom large in its consciousness. The soul confident of its own excellence is equally wrong. As a soul sinks into sin it feels better than its surroundings. It can feel pride only when distant from Christ and immersed in sin.

The particular Judgment is God's irrevocable decision as to whether a particular human soul will spend eternity in heaven or hell. Although God's final judgment may also send a person to purgatory; **purgatory** is not a "last thing" because a soul's stay in purgatory eventually ends. May God bless you!



# Bringing Home the Word

33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME November 18, 2012

## Change Is the One Constant in Life

By Diane M. Houdek

Psychologists tell us that the stress from positive events can have exactly the same effect on our bodies as the stress from negative events. We sometimes overlook this fact and then wonder why we find ourselves getting sick at a time when everything seems to be going well.

Cardinal John Henry Newman once said, "To be human is to change. To be perfect is to have changed often." Our lives are filled with change, and many of those changes involve endings and death, whether actual physical death or the death of something important to us, part of our lives, the way we define who we are and what we hold dear. No

matter how many times we experience changes large and small, they still can startle us. And yet everything we know in our world changes.

All creation moves and changes constantly. The seasons change according to a natural cycle each year. As the earth circles the sun and rotates on its axis, different areas are closer to or farther away from the sun. The changing levels of light and heat affect all growing things, ourselves included. From earliest times, people have noted the changing seasons and arranged their lives accordingly. Even in our increasingly contained and technological lifestyle, we can never completely escape the changing seasons.

So it is with our faith. It's easy to hear Jesus's words as the prediction of some cataclysmic end of the world. But the image Jesus uses suggests that the portents will be much more in line with the natural changes of our everyday lives. He talks about the spring buds on the fig tree as a sign that summer and its fruitfulness are near at hand.

As long as we can accept that change is natural, we don't need to live in fear. The French have a saying that translates to, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." For us, what stays the same is the core of our faith, the belief that God is the "stillpoint of the turning world."


Today's reading from the book of Daniel makes an interesting observation: "The wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever."

We know, as the original biblical author did not, that this image is truer than he might have imagined. The light of the stars comes from such a great distance that the star itself may have burned out long before its light ever reaches the earth.

The good that we do lives on long after the short span of our mortal lives has ended. We add to the light that brightens our world and brings people closer to Christ who is the true light.

Jesus reminds us that we don't know when the world will end. In fact, we don't even know the day or the hour when our own lives will end. But we do know that end they will, at least in their present form.

If we're working each day to do our part to reveal the presence of the kingdom of God in our midst, then what we're doing today is likely to be little different than what we'd be doing if it were the last day of our lives.

As we become more flexible, more willing to move with the inevitable changes of life, we come closer to understanding that end as just another change to bring us closer to divine perfection. 

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

### QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- How do you respond to changes in your plans? What might this reveal about your trust in God?
- What one thing might you change in your life to be more oriented toward the kingdom of God?
- How concerned are you about the

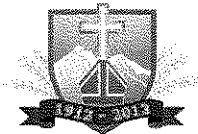




# Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary

Announcements from the Catholic Pastoral Centre for  
November 18th 2012, Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Centennial Committee



Come and celebrate the centennial of our Diocese. The Opening Mass which marks the beginning of our Centennial Year will be held on **Friday, November 30 at 7 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral, Calgary** (219 – 18th Avenue SW). For more information visit: <http://www.calgarydiocese.ca>

## Social Justice Ministry

**The Gospel Call to Solidarity With the Poor In the World: Our Moral Imperative to Greater Involvement in Development and Peace** - Do you want to know more about Catholic Social Teaching? Do you want to know more about what Development and Peace does, how it does it and why it is important? Do you want to know how you can better live your faith consistent with Catholic Social Teaching and help D & P fulfill their mandate in the Global South? The Diocesan Development and Peace Committee is hosting a full-day workshop on God's Call to Each One of Us to Greater Solidarity with the Poor in the World. Throughout the Bible, the Prophets, Gospels, and Letters to Christians challenge us all to work towards justice by serving the poor. Come and learn about what the Lord requires of you to do justice in the world. All Are Welcome! **Special invitation to Clergy, Youth Ministers, Teachers, and Parish Social Justice Reps. Workshop** will be held at **St. Anthony's Parish (5340 - 4 Street S.W., Calgary)** on **Saturday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-4:00pm, includes lunch and refreshments.** To register and for more information, please contact Dave Delainey at 403-241-2634 or email [dwdelain@shaw.ca](mailto:dwdelain@shaw.ca).

**Emergency Appeals for Food Crisis in West Africa (Sahel Region), Flooding in Manila, Philippines, & Syrian Refugee Crisis** - The Diocese of Calgary is accepting financial donations to assist the victims affected by these crises. For details about each specific appeal and how you can contribute, view the diocesan website at <http://www.calgarydiocese.ca/>. For further questions, please contact Jana at the Social Justice Office at 403-218-5519 or e-mail [socialjustice@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:socialjustice@calgarydiocese.ca).

**Development and Peace** has raised 1.8 million dollars towards the Sahel region. Though the government matching has ended, we still continue to collect funds for the Sahel.

## The Life & Family Resource Centre

**FUNDRAISER for Project Rachel - 2013 "A Song for Rachel" calendar** featuring all churches that have hosted the event, the feast days of the Catholic Church, and local events. Cost per calendar is \$15.00 or \$25.00 for two. Contact the Life & Family Resource Centre for orders at 403-218-5505.

The Life & Family Resource Centre invites couples struggling with fertility issues to a **Pot Luck brunch** on **December 8**. For more information or to register contact Gabriele at 403-218-5504.

The **Calgary Diocesan Marriage Preparation** program "For Better and For Ever", accepts all couples preparing for marriage. Smaller group settings allow us to focus on couples in one or more of the following circumstances: living together, previously married, beginning marriage with children, couples 45+, or those who wish to have their marriage blessed in the Church. For information and/or to register call the Life and Family Resource Centre at 403-218-5504 email [lifeandfamily@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:lifeandfamily@calgarydiocese.ca). **Next available program is Jan 14, Feb 1-2, 2013.**

**Effective Co-Parenting: Putting Kids First** is a 5-evening program for those parenting through separation or divorce. Co-parents should ideally not attend the series together, as this is an educational, not counseling, program. Topics covered include best practices for communication with a former spouse, and needs of children experiencing separation/divorce in the family with developmentally-appropriate ideas for every stage from infants/toddlers, through school-aged, to teens and young adults. Contact the Life and Family Resource Centre at 403-218-5504 for more information, upcoming dates, and/or registration.

**Calgary Pro-Life** gives **free educational programs** to raise awareness of respect for all life. You could help us to purchase a new booth display, buy awareness items for 2013 presentations or subsidize the resource person's salary. Please, support us by becoming a member and/or making a donation. Call 403-243-0691 or visit [calgaryprolife.com](http://calgaryprolife.com). PayPal is accepted.

For Life & Family ministries, programs and events please visit our website at [www.calgarydiocese.ca](http://www.calgarydiocese.ca) or call 403-218-5504 for more information.

### **The Palio**

**Calgary Diocesan Family Country Fair** - Additional volunteers are required to help organize this event for our Diocesan Jubilee Year to be held on September 14, 2013. There will be an **Information Session**, on **Wednesday November 21, 2012 at 7:00pm at St. James Parish Hall**, for those interested in finding out how they can help. "Many Hands make Light Work" Coffee and refreshments will be provided. See the Palio website at [www.palio.ca](http://www.palio.ca) for more details or phone Teresa at 403-835-6444 or Don at 403-510-1208.

### **Ecumenical**

To commemorate the **anniversary of the 1989 murders of 14 women** at l'École Polytechnique de Montreal, Sacred Heart Church will be holding an ecumenical Remembrance Service.

Date: **Sunday, December 2, 2012**

Time: **2:00 PM**

Location: **Sacred Heart Church, Calgary** (1307 – 14<sup>th</sup> St. SW)

### **St. Mary's University College, Calgary**

Talk: **The Attack of the Killer Rhododendrons: My Obsessive Quest to Seek Out Alien Species**

Date: **Wednesday, December 5, 2012**

Speaker: Dr. Glen Chilton

Time: **7:30pm** (Free and open to everyone)

Place: **McGivney Hall at St. Mary's University College**

14500 Bannister Road SE (just off Macleod Trail South)

More info: 403-531-9130 or [www.stmu.ca/speakersseries](http://www.stmu.ca/speakersseries)