

# 堂區通訊

卡城永援聖母堂  
暨華人天主教牧民中心

電話 403-265-7926 傳真 403-234-8480

電子郵件 olph@telus.net

堂區辦事處時間  
星期二至星期五  
上午 10 時至下午 4 時

主任司鐸

阮明聰神父

鄺維揚執事

林偉良執事

堂區牧民議會主席  
曾煒森

Website 網址  
www.mylolph.org



# Bulletin

Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Catholic Church

400 Edmonton Trail N.E. Calgary, Alberta  
Canada T2E 3S4

Tel 403-265-7926

Fax 403-234-8480

Email olph@telus.net

Parish Office Hours  
Tuesday - Friday  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Pastor

Fr. Joseph Nguyen

Deacon John  
Wu

Deacon Edward Lam

Parish Pastoral Council Chairman  
William W. Tsang

February 23, 2020 二零二零年二月二十三日

7th Sunday in ordinary Time

常年期第七主日

Last Sunday Collection

上主日奉獻

\$3,641.00



彌撒時間

主日彌撒

星期六 下午五時 國語主日提前彌撒

星期日上午八時三十分英語彌撒

上午十時英/粵語彌撒

上午十一時三十分中文彌撒

平日彌撒

星期一至星期六上午九時

公禱玫瑰經及敬禮聖母英語彌撒

星期二晚上 6 時 30 分



Mass Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday : 5:00 pm Mandarin mass

Sunday : 8:30 a.m. English Mass

10:00 a.m. Bi-lingual Mass (English and Chinese)

11:30 am Cantonese mass

Weekday Mass

Monday to Saturday 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

Rosary and English Marian Devotion mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
1st Saturday of each month 10:00 a.m.

顯供聖體

每月首個星期六 上午十時



## Theme Sharing



### 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect. (Matthew 5:38)

Phew! This is a tall order!

Jesus does not say "TRY to be perfect". He does not say "Do your very best" or "Try your hardest". No, he says, "Be perfect".

They seem hard words, and we shrink from them. But there is no mistake here. Think of the act of contrition which follows confession. The words which nowadays we usually teach to school children and have printed on cards for penitents run like this:

"O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you, and by the help of your grace I will not sin again."

Again and again I hear people say "by the help of your grace, I will TRY not to sin again". Of course, we think. We can only do our best! But that is not what the prayer says. What is going on here?

It is very simple, and very important. Perfection is not about trying - it is about being. Living in Christ is not about our own efforts, but about God's love.

Entering into heaven is not something we achieve, but something which he achieves. Goodness is not what happens through my hard work, but through the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

It might seem strange to begin with, but then we realise that this is really what Christian life is all about. If heaven is for those who have done best, achieved the most, worked the hardest, then it will be a place for those who are spiritually the strongest, a place of arrogance and superiority, a place for human pride. It cannot be so.

No. In fact it is those who believe they have no sin, who should be pitied the most.

Christ has told us, blessed are the poor in spirit, for they shall see God. Blessed are those who know their need of God, who know their own sin, who are aware of their need for God's grace, who know that Heaven is a Gift not a prize. Blessed are those who say "Have mercy on me a

sinner". Blessed are those who live in humility not in pride. Blessed are those who realise that their greatest achievements are always not their achievements, but the work of Christ within them.

We become holy, not through our works, but through His sacraments.

We are made perfect, not by our efforts, but because He is Perfect. By Fr. Peter

## Diocese & Other News



### Women Retreats

TotusTuus for Young Women (18-45) at the Divine Mercy Centre (15206 Township Road 262, Calgary) for a life deeply rooted to Mary, the Mother of Mercy.

When: Mar. 8 at 2-4 pm. Contact 587-755-1019.

Religious Vocation retreat for single women (16-35) at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish (7624-39 Ave. NW Calgary). When: March 7. Contact Sr. Terry Smith at 403-228-3623

| [terry@fcjcentre.ca](mailto:terry@fcjcentre.ca)

## Parish Activities



### Spiritual Renewal in the Diocese of Calgary



In collaboration with the Presbyteral Council, Bishop McGrattan is launching a spiritual renewal initiative in the Diocese of Calgary – *Duc in Altum*, beginning with the Renewal of Priests and culminating with the Renewal of the entire Diocese. Bishop McGrattan will issue a Pastoral Letter to the faithful, which will explain the general concept of the Renewal. The Pastoral Letter will be distributed with the Bulletin.

### ASH Wednesday

Our parish will celebrate Ash Wednesday on:

February 26 at 9:00 am Mass (English) and 6:30pm Mass (Chinese)

It is time to get ready for a new Lenten journey. Parishioners are encouraged to join daily mass and Way of the Cross in Lent.

### Ash Wednesday and Good Friday Fasting and Abstinence

1. Among Catholics, fasting is a reduction in the normal amount of food consumption per day: one regular meal plus two other smaller meals without the provision of snacks during the Holy Days of observation.
2. Among Catholics, abstinence is the omission of meat and other meat products, except fish, in the diet during the Holy Days of observation.
3. Abstinence is practiced by a wider age group of Catholic individuals 14 and up as opposed to fasting which is practiced by Catholics aged 18 to 59.

### OLPH Way of the Cross in Lent

Starting from February 28

English: every Friday 8:30 a.m.

Cantonese & Mandarin:

every Saturday 4:30 p.m.

### Together in Action 2020



The 2020 "Together in Action" commences on the first Sunday of Lent (March 1).

Our parish's target is \$28,618 as designated by the Diocese. This year's TIA is led by Catholic Family Fellowship. We plead for your generous support. Donation envelopes are being distributed with your 2019 donation tax receipts. Let's give sacrificially, act out our faith, and join Together in Action.

## 2019 Donation Tax Receipts

Tax Receipts are ready for parishioners to pick up at the church main entrance now. Please contact parish office if you have any concern on your donation record.

## Exposition of the Blessed

### Sacrament on March 7

"The Church and the world have great need of Eucharistic adoration. Jesus waits for us in this sacrament of love. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration and contemplation full of faith. And let us be ready to make reparation for the great faults and crimes of the world. May our adoration never cease." ~ Pope John Paul II

The March's Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be led by St. Gabriel Choir on March 7 from 10am to 11am. Fr. Nguyen will listen to Confession. Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

## Coldest Night of the Year

Thank you all for your generous donations and support to this charity! Together, we have surpassed our goal and raised \$3,020 ! This support reflects how giving and caring our church community is and with your help, we have made differences in people's lives. On behalf of the Young Adults Group and the Coldest Night of the Year Charity, we thank you again for helping our local community!

## Words of Life Reflection



Who will ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who will stand in his holy place? Those with clean hands and pure heart, who desire not what is vain, and never swear to a lie. They will receive blessings from the Lord, a reward from God, their savior. (Psalms 24:3 、 4 、 5)

## Weekly Activities



Wed Feb 26

### ASH Wednesday

9:00 am Mass (English)  
and 6:30pm Mass (Chinese)  
St. Angela School Ash Mass  
Time: 9:00a.m.

Wed, Fri Feb 26, 28

### OLPH Senior Centre

Time: 9:00a.m.-12:00 noon  
Place: OLPH Church Upper Hall

Fri Feb 28

### Way of the Cross in Lent

English: every Friday 8:30 a.m.

### OLPH Scout

Time: 6:30pm.-8:30pm  
Place: Upper Hall & Lower Hall

Sat Feb 29

### Legion of Mary ( meeting )

Time: 9:45a.m.  
Place: K of C Room at OLPH Church  
Tai Chi Lesson

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30p.m.  
Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

### R. C.I.A (Mandarin)

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 5:00p.m.  
Place: K of C Room

### Way of the Cross in Lent

Cantonese & Mandarin: 4:30 p.m.

Sun Mar 1

### R. C.I.A (Cantonese and English)

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Place: OLPH Church Lower Hall

### Sunday School

Time: 10:00a.m.-12:30p.m.  
Place: OLPH Church Office Building  
K of C Matteo Ricci 10119 meeting  
Time: 12:30p.m.-3:00p.m.  
Place: OLPH Church K of C room

## Lent



## ASHES

Let us do a little thinking about what happens on Ash Wednesday. When the priest puts ashes on your head, he speaks the solemn, serious words: "Remember man that thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return."

Ashes tell us more loudly than words that death will reduce our bodies to a little handful of dust or ashes. Ashes remind us that this body, no matter how healthy, will break down, will wither and die and turn to ashes.

## FASTING

For forty days our Lord fasted. He ate nothing. For this reason Mother Church asks those who can to fast also, to cut down on food and drink, in imitation of Jesus.

But, kind Mother that she is, the Church realizes that many of us, weak children of Adam, working for our bread in the sweat of our brow, or even worse, not being able to work when we want to, cannot keep the strict fast from food.

Accordingly she dispenses those who work hard, the sick and convalescent, and others who have some valid excuse. However, do not take it upon yourself to dispense yourself. Ask your priest either in or out of the confessional to dispense you and to give you some other penance as a substitute. Too often lukewarm Catholics excuse themselves from fasting and then do no penance at all. Everybody must do some penance.

## Let There Be Light



When we put God first in everything and live by the word of the Lord instead of living from the bread of the world then we Fast from fear; Feast on Faith  
Fast from despair; Feed on hope.  
Fast from depressing news;  
Feed on prayer.  
Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.  
Fast from anger and worry;  
Feed on patience.  
Fast from negative thinking;  
Feast on positive thinking.  
Fast from bitterness;  
Feed on love and forgiveness.  
Fast from words that wound;  
Feast on words that heal.  
Fast from gravity;  
Feast on joy and humor.  
When we live from the bread of the world by not putting God first we sin and can never hope to be happy because sin always leaves us guilty. In the words of the poem just quoted sin brings us fear,



despair, depressing news, discontent, anger and worry, negative thinking, bitterness, words that wound. But when we overcome sin then in the words of the poem we live on faith, hope, prayer, gratitude, patience, positive thinking, love and forgiveness, words that heal, joy and humor.

## Faith Stories Sharing



### Gratitude

A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said: "I am blind, please help." There were only a few coins in the hat. A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words. Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy. That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were.

The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?"

The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said

what you said but in a different way." I wrote: "Today is a beautiful day but I cannot see it."

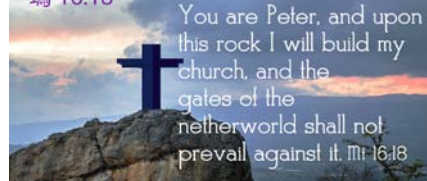
Both signs told people that the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind. The second sign told people that they were so lucky that they were not blind. Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective? Moral of the Story: Be thankful for what you have. Be creative. Be innovative. Think differently and positively. When life gives you a 100 reasons to cry, show life that you have 1000 reasons to smile. Face your past without regret. Handle your present with confidence. Prepare for the future without fear. Keep the faith and drop the fear.

The most beautiful thing is to see a person smiling.

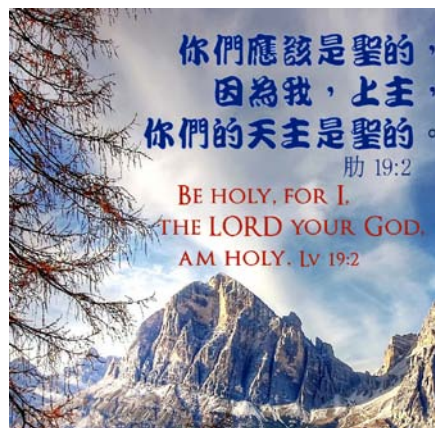
## Daily Words 每日聖言



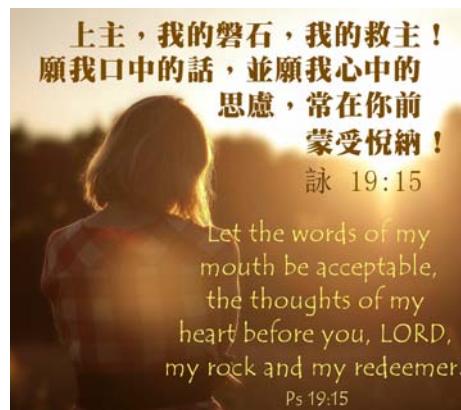
你是伯多祿【磐石】：  
在這磐石上，我要建立  
我的教會：陰間的門  
決不能戰勝她。  
瑪 16:18



February 22 2月22日



February 23 2月23日



February 24 2月24日



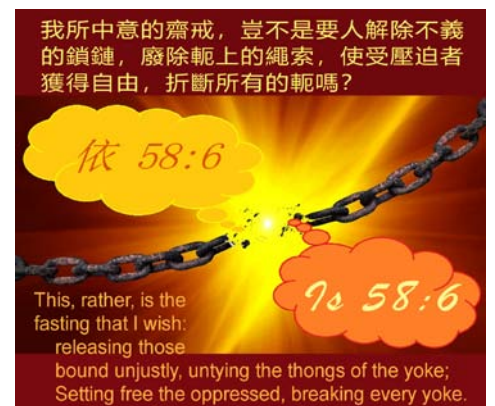
February 25 2月25日



February 26 2月26日



February 27 2月27日



February 28 2月28日



## 主日分享



### 常年期第七主日

#### 報仇與愛仇

道德與福音，同出一源，原來不相對立。但是道德的判斷必須運用人的理智，而人理智的運用，往往受私慾感情的干擾以及環境的影響。所以，實際上，某地某時的傳教道德很可能與福音的教訓相抵觸。在耶穌時代的猶太社會中，便會出現這樣的現象。在福音中，祂一再強調福音的超越性。祂說「我不來廢除，而來成全」本主日福音引用的關於「報仇」和「愛仇」都說明福音的超越性。「以眼還眼；以牙還牙」、「愛你的近人；恨你的仇人」。這很可能是耶穌時代多數猶太人的道德觀。但舊約中，梅瑟勸勉以色列子民效法天主的聖德說：「你們應該成聖，因為我、上主、你們的天主是聖的。不可報復，不可惱恨你的同胞，要愛人如己。」在瑪竇福音中，耶穌說：「愛你的仇人！為迫害你們的人祈禱！使你們成為你們在天之父的兒女，因為祂使太陽光照惡人，也光照善人；降雨水給義人，也給不義的人。」

基督徒的愛仇，並為迫害他們的人祈禱，不是因為他們在道德上勝人一籌，而是因為他們信天主，愛天主。正如本主日的答唱詠所說的：「天主是愛，祂是極其仁慈的。」

## 堂區活動



### 卡加里教區的靈修更新大行動



威廉主教與卡加里神父牧民議會將在卡加里教區發起一項靈修更新的大行動，首先是神父的更新，最後是整個教區的更新。威廉主教將向教友發出一封牧民信，其中內容將解釋靈修更

新的一些概念及如何進行。威廉主教的牧民信將與堂區通訊一同派發。

### 聖灰瞻禮

二月二十六日(星期三)是聖灰瞻禮。本堂將於當日九時彌撒(英文)為教友施放聖灰。此外，阮神父將於聖灰瞻禮當天晚上六時三十分加開中文彌撒，以方便教友領受聖灰，請各位教友能盡量參與。

在四旬期內，我們可作特別的努力，每天參與彌撒、每天朝拜聖體或拜苦路。

教友當日要守大小齋

小齋：教會規定凡已足十四歲的教友，在每年的聖灰禮儀及聖週內星期五紀念基督聖死日，應守小齋，即在那兩天放棄取用熱血動物的肉類食物。

大齋：教會要求年齡已滿十八至五十九歲的教友在每年的聖灰禮儀及聖週內星期五紀念基督聖死日，應守小齋外，還要守大齋，即在那兩天只可飽食一餐，其他兩餐只可進食少許食物，其餘時間可飲流質飲品，但不能進食其他食物(藥物除外)。

### 四旬期苦路善功

在四旬期內二月二十八日(星期五)開始，按教會傳統，將舉行苦路善功，以紀念基督為拯救人類，所受的苦難聖死。

請教友盡量抽出時間前來參與。

英語拜苦路：

逢週五早上彌撒前 8 時 30 分。

粵語國語拜苦路：

逢週六下午彌撒前 4 時 30 分。

### 2020 教區公益金，齊來獻愛心



2020 年教區公益金

TIA 籌款

將於三月一日(四旬期首主日)正式展開。

本堂所須籌募的數目為教區指定的 28,618 元，今年公益金將由公教家庭負責統籌，懇請各位慷慨解囊，繼續支持教區公益金，捐款信封現正與 2019 年退稅收條一起發出。讓我們無私奉獻，活出信仰，攜手一起行動！

### 2019 年退稅收條

教友可在教堂正門入口處領取。教友

如有任何查詢，可與堂區辦事處聯絡。

### 顯供聖體(三月七日)

而永援聖母堂三月份的顯供聖體時間為三月七日上午十時至十一時由佳播聖詠團帶領。當天除了朝拜聖體外，阮神父將為教友聽告解。請各位教友盡量參與！

### 「最寒冷的一夜」

大專青年團感謝大家對「最寒冷的一夜」慈善活動的慷慨捐助和支持！我們共同籌集了 3,020 元！今次的籌款活動，正反映了我們對社區的奉獻與關懷，在你們的幫助下，我們已經幫助了很多在生活上需要的人。我們再一次代表大專青年團和「最寒冷的一夜」的慈善機構，感謝大家！

## 活動一週



星期三 2 月 26 日

### 聖灰瞻禮

早上九時彌撒(英文)

晚上六時三十分中文彌撒

St. Angela School 參與聖灰瞻禮

時間：上午 9 時

星期三、五 2 月 26, 28 日

### 永援聖母松柏軒

時間：上午 9 時至正午 12 時

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂

星期五 2 月 28 日

### 四旬期苦路善功

早上 8 時 30 分

### 永援聖母堂童軍

時間：晚上 6 時 30 分至 8 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂上禮堂及下禮堂

星期六 2 月 28 日

### 聖母軍

時間：上午 9 時 45 分(開會)

地點：聖堂二樓騎士會室

### 楊式太極班

時間：上午 10 時至 12 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

### 成人慕道班(國語)

時間：下午 3 時至 5 時

地點：聖堂二樓騎士會室

### 四旬期苦路善功

時間：下午 4 時 30 分

星期日 3月1日

成人慕道班(粵語及英語)

時間上午 9 時 30 分至 12 時 30 分

地點：永援聖母堂下禮堂

主日學

時間：上午 10 時至 12 時 30 分

地點：寫字樓大廈，聖堂騎士會室

利瑪竇騎士會 10119 開會

時間：下午 12 時 30 分至 3 時

地點：聖堂騎士會室

## 聖言反思



誰能登上上主的聖山？誰能居留在他的聖殿？是那手潔心清，不慕虛幻的人，是那不發假誓，不行欺騙的人。他必獲得上主的降福；和拯救者天主的報酬。（聖詠 24:3、4、5）

## 四旬期



### 聖灰禮儀有什麼意義

“聖灰禮儀”是四旬期的第一天。這一天舉行聖灰禮儀。

神父用聖灰在信友前額上劃十字聖號，同時念說：“人哪！你要記住：你原來是灰土，將來仍要歸於灰土。”教會定了四旬期，以聖灰禮儀開始，表示在四旬期教友們應多追思默想耶穌的苦難與死亡，與耶穌同悲同傷，在頭上抹灰，放棄娛樂，穿上喪服，猶如孝子孝女為慈父守喪一樣。整個教會猶如基督的淨配（參閱格後十一2；默十九7），在四旬期內為紀念基督的苦難與死亡而守喪，以期待復活節的來臨，與他同歡同樂。

聖灰禮儀也提醒教友要謙誠認罪、悔改、做補贖。

謙誠認罪及悔改最好的方式，就是辦一妥當告解，真心實意和天主、他人、自己的良心以及受造之物合好，痛改前非，並以具體的行動補償已往的過犯缺失。如果侵犯了他人的名譽、權利、財物，就應該求人原諒寬恕，並以適當的方式，彌補別人的損失。教會要求成年教友在聖灰禮儀當天守大

小齋，以補償罪惡缺失。

此外，教會也勸告教友多行愛德工作，以彌補過犯缺失。

### 為何要禁食

人們悔改時用禁食的方法來轉化天主的義怒。由於這個時代太注重物質、利益、財富和貪婪。聖母邀請我們祈禱和禁食。藉著祈禱，我們依附天主；藉著禁食，我們從束縛我們的世物中釋放出來。禁食可以令我們心靈自由，禁食是幫助肉身的歸依。私慾偏情令我們內心受束縛。當我們不受身外物束縛時，便是由私慾偏情中釋放出來。這種自由會讓位給一些更高的價值，至令我們平安快樂。

當我們自以為是生命的主人，好像不需要天主時，我們便顯示了無神主義的危險記號。當我們禁食時，便更加認識到自己的軟弱和不足之處，同時也更易明白天主的旨意。

禁食時一定需要用祈禱來配合。因為禁食是一種掙扎，當我們加強了精神力量後，我們對心理和生理上的病更有抵抗力。我們更加空虛自己的心，更易接近天主和鄰人，更易寬恕別人的侮辱。當我們的肉身得到淨化後，我們的靈性對積極的影響更開放。我們禁食是要懷著正確的意向；對天主要信賴，因為我們相信天主藉著禁食來令我們靈魂得到益處。禁食的痛苦可以令我們自由，增長對天主的愛和走上聖善的道路

## 靈修小故事



### 攬球比賽

有一則美國攬球比賽的真實故事，或許你不懂球賽的規則，它卻給了我們不少的啟示與教導：

西元一九一九年元旦，喬治亞理工學院與加州大學在爭奪「玫瑰杯」的年度冠軍賽。在上半場快結束前，加州大學有位球員名叫洛伊。里哥攔截到喬治亞的失誤球。然而，他不知怎麼地，卻慌亂地向著錯誤的方向猛衝 65 呎。其結果，導致對手球隊得分！中場休息，球員離場魚貫進入休息室。全體隊員默然坐在板凳上，洛伊。里哥用毛巾蒙著頭像個小孩般痛哭。

教練尼布。普萊士一語不發，毫無疑問，他正在考慮如何決定洛伊。里哥的去留。

每個人只沉默無聲地坐在那裡。不久，當計時員宣佈「距離下半場比賽還有三分鐘」。尼布教練注視著球隊，且簡單地說：「小子們！剛才上半場出賣的相同隊員，將開始下半場比賽。」所有球員都起身準備進場，惟有洛伊。里哥仍坐著不動。教練又催他一次，他還是不動。於是，他走到洛伊。里哥身邊說：「洛伊，你沒聽懂嗎？上半場的原班人馬將繼續出賣。」

洛伊。里哥抬頭看，眼裡帶著淚水說：

「教練，我辦不到！我毀了整個球隊！我讓學校丟臉，我也毀了自己，我無法再回到球場面對觀眾！」

尼布教練伸出雙手放在洛伊。里哥的肩膀說：「站起來，走向前去。比賽才進行一半，還有下半場！」

洛伊。里哥驟然醒悟，重新回到球賽現場。

凡觀看過那場馳名比賽的每個人，都難忘那一幕，他如拚命三郎般的奔馳於球場，連連得分，為加州大學贏得「玫瑰杯」冠軍賽。

默思：有些時候，我們也會接到球卻跑錯了方向。我們跌倒失誤過（破產、孩子悖逆、或入監坐牢），致使我們如此羞愧而不願再去嘗試。失敗又怎肯離您而去呢？人生尚未走到盡頭，又怎能輕易放棄。人生路途中難免失誤、錯手。然而當天主說：「起來，回到起點。」

那承認並離棄過錯的人，將獲得另一次機會。而這機會即可能讓您反敗為勝、扭轉乾坤！失去的畢竟已經遠離，何必捨不得拋棄？重新再來的機會不多，當好好把握！

在您的舞台、您的戲碼尚未結束前都有機會扭轉，只怕您先行放棄而退縮。錯並不可怕，可怕的是您不願改過。改過並不困難，困難的是在您的決心，只要在您的舞台尚未結束前，您都還有機會下定決心將錯誤修正改過；只怕您執意而讓舞台的戲在錯誤中結束！

朋友，您的上半場表現如何？沒關係，只要好好把握您僅剩的下半場。相信您一定不會繳白卷的！。



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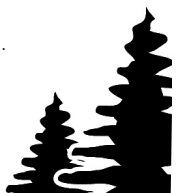
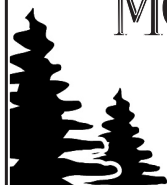
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# DUC IN ALTUM

— LUKE 5:4 —

## PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP

### *Spiritual Renewal in the Diocese of Calgary*

Renewal of Priests



Renewal of the Laity,  
Deacons, and Religious



Renewal of the Diocese



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To the Faithful of the Diocese of Calgary,

Greetings of peace.

### **Introduction**

1. February 27, 2020 marks the third anniversary of my installation as the Bishop of Calgary. As we enter this new decade in the life of the Diocese, I have begun to look ahead and also to review with gratitude the last three years to see the workings of the risen Christ and the Spirit.
2. After being installed as the Eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary, I embarked on a process of consultation with the priests and the permanent deacons. The past three years were devoted to the assessment and evaluation, planning, and implementation of the pastoral approaches to the priorities that the clergy had identified. They include ongoing priestly formation, sacramental preparation that is family focused, the evaluation of the structure and mission of the Catholic Pastoral Centre, the ongoing vigilance and care for our Catholic schools, the review of our youth and family ministry outreach,

the new focus for the young adult and university chaplaincy, and the revitalization of the formation curriculum for permanent deacons that will ultimately focus their ministry on much needed areas of pastoral outreach in the broader community. The Presbyteral Council has been invaluable in helping to prioritize the areas of diocesan pastoral ministry, its implementation and the necessary feedback for its success.

3. This process of consultation with clergy was also supported by my Pastoral Visits to the parishes where I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with the lay faithful who worship in our parishes and serve in the various ministries such as Catholic schools and health care institutions and lay organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, to name but a few. My parish pastoral visits are continuing and I appreciate the opportunity to have in-depth discussions about matters pertaining to the faith and the mission of the parish which Christ has entrusted to each one of us through baptism.

## ***Duc in Altum* | Put out into the deep**

4. In this year of 2020, we will mark the 20th anniversary of *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (NMI), the Apostolic Letter issued by Pope John Paul II during the great jubilee year. He began the Letter by recalling the words of Jesus to Simon inviting him to “put out into the deep” for a catch: “*duc in altum*” (Luke 5:4) where “they caught a great number of fish” (Luke 5:6).

5. The Lord continues to speak these words to us today and invites us to put out into the deep. It is in this same spirit that we embark as a Diocese to rediscover and renew our common mission of proclaiming the Gospel through the spiritual and pastoral renewal of our clergy, the religious and lay faithful, and our parishes in anticipation and preparation for a formal process of Diocesan pastoral planning.

6. At the beginning of the millennium, the Letter was the Holy Father’s way of calling for the ongoing renewal of the Church’s mission through the laity and ordained ministry, and the ongoing pastoral planning at every level of the Church in order to rediscover the mystery we behold as a Church and as contained in Sacred Tradition. That mystery is Jesus Christ, the Good News that we are called to proclaim.

7. Pope John Paul II stated, “The program already exists: it is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition. Ultimately, it has its centre in Christ himself, who is to be known, loved and imitated, so that in him we may live the life of the Trinity, and with him transform history until its fulfilment in the heavenly Jerusalem. (The program) must be translated into pastoral initiatives adapted to the circumstances of each community. It is in the local churches that the specific features of a detailed pastoral plan can be identified which will enable the proclamation of Christ to reach the people, mould communities, and have a deep and incisive influence in bringing Gospel values to bear in society and culture.” (NMI par. 29)

8. The Church’s mission must take into account the current times and culture. An important and essential part of this renewal is for priests to first rediscover their centredness in Christ so that they can truly offer a renewed pastoral leadership within the parishes in today’s context.

9. Pope John Paul II stated, “It is prayer which roots us in this truth. It constantly reminds us of the primacy of Christ and, in union with him, the primacy of the interior life and of holiness. When this principle is not respected, is it any wonder that pastoral plans come to nothing and leave us with a disheartening sense of frustration? We then share the experience of the disciples in the Gospel story of the miraculous catch of fish: ‘We have toiled all night and caught nothing’ (Lk 5:5). This is the moment of faith, of prayer, of conversation with God, in order to open our hearts to the tide of grace and allow the word of Christ to pass through us in all its power: *Duc in altum!* On that occasion, it was Peter who spoke the word of faith: ‘At your word I will let down the nets’ (ibid.).” (NMI no. 38)

10. When pastors are grounded in Christ who calls them to “put out into the deep”, they can then invite the faithful with joy and confidence to renew their own zeal for living their faith as missionary disciples in the world.

## **Program of Renewal**



11. I am proposing a multi-year program of renewal, and invite us to embrace it as a Diocese in such a way that as we renew our individual commitments to the state of life for which we have been called by the Lord to live and serve, we become the leaven that will renew and transform the parishes, which when burning with zeal for the mission of Christ, in turn



will assist in the formation of missionary disciples for the evangelization of our society.

12. Pope Francis, in *Evangelii Gaudium* (EG), stated, “The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community. While certainly not the only institution which evangelizes, if the parish proves capable of self-renewal and constant adaptivity, it continues to be ‘the Church living in the midst of the homes of her sons and daughters.’ This presumes that it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with people or a self-absorbed group made up of a chosen few. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s Word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed to bring them nearer to people, to make them environments of living communion and participation, and to make them completely mission-oriented.” (EG no. 28).

13. Parish renewal begins with the priests by renewing their priestly life and spirituality and, in turn, their ministry. It is my belief that this approach will provide us with new pastoral experiences from which to draw upon when we begin a formal process of diocesan pastoral renewal and planning in the coming years. As scripture states, “new wine must be poured into new wineskins” (Mark 2:22). A similar call and path will be extended to the lay faithful, religious and those who live and witness to their faith through their professions.

14. I envision a multi-staged process that will span over three years, engaging respectively the renewal

of the Priests, the Laity, Deacons, and Religious, and the Diocese as a whole. It is a process that will focus on the basics, the living of our baptismal faith, deepening our spiritual lives, seeking new ways of outreach in witness to justice and holiness that is a sign of authenticity in today’s world. This renewal must touch the fabric of our parishes, families and youth, young adults, seniors and the elderly. It can be the impetus for building bridges between the parishes and communities, with agencies and pastoral services sponsored throughout the Diocese.

15. Within the renewal of the laity, I also see unique opportunities for renewal in the professional life of Catholic School Educators, Administrators, Teachers and Staff, our Health Care Professionals, and Public Safety Professionals. These occasions of renewal provide the professionals serving in ministries of the Catholic Church the opportunity to plan and implement a year-round program of formation and support best suited to their field of work and expertise.

16. The final stage of renewal, taking place from Pentecost 2021 to 2022 and marked as the Renewal of the Diocese, will be the year of consultation, assessment, and planning for the pastoral life and mission of the Diocese. A working document will be produced for this final stage of renewal which will contain the findings of the previous stages of renewal and the practical and valuable information already obtained from the parish pastoral visits I have conducted since the beginning of my episcopacy.

17. While the process of renewal unfolds in stages, the various moments that liturgically mark the beginning of each stage will cause the processes to overlap and run concurrently with each other. The nature of this renewal will remind us of our interconnectedness and unity in Christ while celebrating the various spiritual gifts and responsibilities.

18. The following are markers of the renewal process. (See next page)

## Year 2020

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Feb 23

- The Release of the Bishop's Pastoral Letter to the Faithful

### Ash Wednesday, Feb 26

- The Release of the Bishop's Pastoral Letter to Priests

### Mass of Chrism, Monday, Apr 6

- The Priests Renew their Promises and Formally Begin the Process of Renewal

### Easter Sunday – Apr 12

- The Lay Faithful Renew their Baptismal Promises and Formally Begin the Process of Renewal

### Pentecost Sunday – May 31

- Renewal for Lay Associations

### Catholic School Division Opening Masses – August 2020

- Renewal for Catechists and Catholic School Administrators, Teachers, and Staff

### White Mass – Oct 2020

- Renewal for Health Care Professionals

### Red Mass – Oct 2020

- Renewal for Law Professionals

### Blue Mass – Oct 2020

- Renewal for Public Safety Personnel

### 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Day of the Poor – Nov 15

- The Deacons Renew their Promises and Formally Begin the Process of Renewal

### The Feast of the Holy Family – Sunday, Dec 27

- Renewal of Families & Youth and Begins the Process of Renewal

## Year 2021

### The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Tuesday, Feb 2

- The Religious Renew their Vows and Formally Begin the Process of Renewal

### Mass of Chrism, Monday, Mar 29

- The Priests Renew their Promises

### Easter Sunday – April 4

- The Lay Faithful Renew their Baptismal Promises

### Pentecost Sunday – May 23

Renewal for Lay Associations and the Launch of the Pastoral Planning Process

### Catholic School Division Opening Masses – August – Sep 2021

- Renewal for Catechists and Catholic School Administrators, Teachers, and Staff

### White Mass – Oct 2021

- Renewal for Health Care Professionals

### Red Mass – Oct 2021

- Renewal for Law Professionals

### Blue Mass – Oct 2021

- Renewal for Public Safety Personnel

### 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Day of the Poor – Nov 14

- The Deacons Renew their Promises

### The Feast of the Holy Family – Sunday, Dec 26

- Renewal of Families & Youth

## Year 2022

### The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Wednesday, Feb 2

- The Religious Renew their Vows

### Mass of Chrism, Monday, Apr 11

- The Priests Renew their Promises

### Easter Sunday – Apr 17

- The Lay Faithful Renew their Baptismal Promises

### Pentecost Sunday – Jun 5

- Renewal for Lay Associations, the Culmination of the Pastoral Planning Process, and the Beginning of the Implementation Phase



19. In this multi-year process, it is my hope that we all deepen our commitment to the Lord in living our vocation every time we make the act of renewal on the marked feasts and occasions. We also strive to increase the formation we are receiving in the corresponding states of life and professions so that we may be able to deepen our sense of discipleship in our daily lives.

## Call to Holiness

20. Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exultate* (GEE), states, “We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain.” (GEE no. 14)

21. Beginning this Season of Lent, we open our hearts, minds, and homes to the Holy Spirit. May these years of renewal be for us a source of inspiration and grace not only for our personal holiness and development but also for the holiness and development of the entire Diocese.

22. With the Diocese of Calgary under the patronage of our Blessed Mother, I conclude this pastoral letter with the prayer to our Lady from *Evangelii Gaudium*. We honour her for her humility and for her docility to God the Father, and we praise God for raising her to the stature of being the greatest disciple of our Lord and the “model of evangelization” (EG no. 288).

*Mary, Virgin and Mother,  
you who, moved by the Holy Spirit,  
welcomed the word of life  
in the depths of your humble faith:  
as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One,  
help us to say our own “yes”  
to the urgent call, as pressing as ever,  
to proclaim the good news of Jesus.*

*Filled with Christ’s presence,  
you brought joy to John the Baptist,  
making him exult in the womb of his mother.  
Brimming over with joy,  
you sang of the great things done by God.  
Standing at the foot of the cross with unyielding faith,  
you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection,  
and joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit  
so that the evangelizing Church might be born.*

*Obtain for us now a new ardour born of the resurrection,  
that we may bring to all the Gospel of life  
which triumphs over death.  
Give us a holy courage to seek new paths,  
that the gift of unfading beauty  
may reach every man and woman.*

*Virgin of listening and contemplation,  
Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast,  
pray for the Church, whose pure icon you are,  
that she may never be closed in on herself  
or lose her passion for establishing God’s kingdom.*

*Star of the new evangelization,  
help us to bear radiant witness to communion,  
service, ardent and generous faith,  
justice and love of the poor, that the joy of the Gospel  
may reach to the ends of the earth,  
illuminating even the fringes of our world.*

*Mother of the living Gospel,  
wellspring of happiness for God’s little ones, pray for us.  
Amen. Alleluia!*

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William T. McGrattan



Bishop of Calgary



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
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*of Calgary*

Catholic Pastoral Centre  
120 17 Avenue SW  
Calgary, Alberta T2S 2T2  
Canada

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
FEBRUARY 22/23, 2020

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION WITH CEE

Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) invites engaged couples to a marriage preparation weekend. When: **March 28-29**. The weekend begins Saturday morning and ends Sunday afternoon, led by a team of married couples and clergy. Engaged couples will be encouraged to talk privately with each other on many aspects of marriage, always from the viewpoint of their own relationship. To register, call 403-240-0103 | [ceewest.com/calgary](http://ceewest.com/calgary) |

### LENTEN VESPERS & ADORATION

St. Joseph's Parish in Calgary invites all to begin Lent by spending one hour with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and with sung Vespers (Evening Prayer). When: **Thursday, Feb. 27 at 7 to 8 pm**. All are welcome.

### FREE TAX CLINICS

Holy Spirit Parish will be hosting free Tax Clinics for Income Tax Returns. When: **March 14 & 28, April 18 & 25 (2 to 5 pm)**. Where: Holy Spirit Parish, 10827 24 St. SW, Calgary. For more information about eligibility or to register, contact [taxfreeclinic@holyspiritparish.net](mailto:taxfreeclinic@holyspiritparish.net). Note: *This is a service offered by Holy Spirit Parish done by volunteers. Both Holy Spirit Parish and the Diocese of Calgary are not responsible to the CRA for the income tax return prepared and filed.*

### WHERE TO FIND EVENING ADORATION?

- **St. Bonaventure** (1600 Acadia Dr. SE, Calgary)  
Monday: 9:30 am - Midnight  
Tuesday: 7 am - Midnight  
Wednesday: 7 am - Thursday, Midnight  
Friday: 9:30 am - Midnight
- **St. Anthony's Church** (5340 4 St SW, Calgary)-  
Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration takes place in the Chapel. Note: a door code is required to enter the Chapel between 10 pm to 6 am. To

get the door code, call Marta at the Parish Office 403-252-1137 ext. 221  
| [adoration@stanthonyscalgary.com](mailto:adoration@stanthonyscalgary.com)

- **St. Luke's Church** (1566 Northmount Dr NW, Calgary)  
Monday to Friday 8:30 am - 10 pm  
First Sundays 8:30 pm to 8 am Monday

### TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

The Transitions Program is a 15-week peer support program for those recently separated or divorced. The program began Tuesday, Feb. 18 at Sacred Heart Parish (1307 - 14th St. SW, Calgary) but will remain open until **March 3**. Register at 403-218-5505 | [alida.allen@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:alida.allen@calgarydiocese.ca)

### LENTEN RETREATS / MISSIONS

- **Lenten Day Retreat with the Sisters of Divine Mercy**. Adults (18 & older) are invited to a Lenten Day Retreat. When: **Saturday, Feb. 29 at 10:30 am to 4 pm**. Register at: [sistersofdivinemercy.org](http://sistersofdivinemercy.org)
- **Lenten Mission with St. Paul's, Airdrie** with Fr. Adrian Martens. When: Monday to Wednesday, **March 9-11, at 7 pm** (start with Mass). Where: St. Paul's Church (1305 Main St., Airdrie).
- **Lenten Mission with St. Anthony's, Calgary** with Fr. Edmund Vargas. When: **March 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 7:30 pm** (following 7 pm Mass). Where: St. Anthony's Church (5340 4 St SW, Calgary)
- **SFXC Young Adult Lenten Retreat** (18-35) at Camp Chestermere (1041 East Lakeview Rd., Chestermere, AB). When: **Friday, March 20 (all day)**. To register, contact 587-232-9728 | [sfxc@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:sfxc@calgarydiocese.ca) | [sfxc.ca](http://sfxc.ca)

### RETRouvaille PROGRAM

Help your marriage and family by taking the Retrouvaille program. Learn to use practical

communication tools to bring greater intimacy to your relationship. When: **Friday, March 6.** Register at [helpourmarriagecalgary.com](http://helpourmarriagecalgary.com) or call 403-879-7893.

### BRUNCH WITH THE BISHOP

The Calgary Catholic Medical Association (CCMA) invites you to have brunch with Bishop McGrattan at the Canmore Opera House at Heritage Park (1900 Heritage Dr SW, Calgary). When: **Saturday, March 7.** This event is open to everyone. Tickets: \$30 each. For any questions or to register, contact [catholicmedyyyc@gmail.com](mailto:catholicmedyyyc@gmail.com)

### WOMEN' RETREATS

- **TotusTuus for Young Women** (18-45) at the Divine Mercy Centre (15206 Township Road 262, Calgary) for a life deeply rooted to Mary, the Mother of Mercy. When: **Mar. 8 at 2-4 pm.** Contact 587-755-1019.
- **Religious Vocation retreat for single women** (16-35) at **Our Lady of the Assumption Parish** (7624-39 Ave. NW Calgary). When: **March 7.** Contact Sr. Terry Smith at 403-228-3623 | [terry@fcjcentre.ca](mailto:terry@fcjcentre.ca)

### FINE ARTS POSTER CONTEST

The Secular Franciscan Fraternities of Western Canada invite all children and youth to participate in their annual fine arts and poster contest. Theme: Reaching Out to My Community. Official entry must be submitted before **March 20.** For more information or to submit artwork, please visit [olota.org](http://olota.org) | call 403-358-4530 or email [catherineofs@gmail.com](mailto:catherineofs@gmail.com).

### FAMILY COMPASS

Schoenstatt Apostolic Movement of Calgary invites Spanish-speaking couples to *Family Compass*, a series of workshops designed for couples who want to enrich their relationship and connect on a deeper level with God and their family. The series begins on Saturday, **March 21 at 6:30 pm** happening at St. Michael Catholic Community (800 85 Street SW, Calgary). For

more information, visit [saintmichael.ca/faithformation](http://saintmichael.ca/faithformation)

### FAITH AND FUN FLAMES GAME

Join Bishop McGrattan and the Catholic Community in the Diocese of Calgary at a hockey game - Calgary Flames vs Tampa Bay Lightning. The first one hundred purchasers will be entered into a draw for an autographed hockey stick. For each ticket sold we raise \$5 for the Diocesan youth ministry. There will be a pre-game meet & greet with Bishop McGrattan. When: **Saturday, March 21.** Cost: \$56 (discounted tickets). Get tickets at [flamesgroups.com/faithandfun](http://flamesgroups.com/faithandfun)

### LIVE-IN RETREAT

You are invited to a Live-In weekend retreat to grow in faith with Jesus. When: **March 27-29** near Okotoks (starts Friday evening and ends Sunday afternoon). To register, please contact [calgarylivein@telus.net](mailto:calgarylivein@telus.net) | 403-239-0979. If you have attended your own Live-In, please consider serving at the retreat.

### FORMATION EXPERIENCE FOR ADULTS

**WORKING WITH KIDS** | Training on *The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* will be provided for adults working with kids 3-6 years old. This program provides Christian religious formation for children and is based on Montessori principles. When: **April 20-25.** Where: Catholic Pastoral Centre. For more information Contact [cgsac.ca](mailto:cgsac.ca) | [paula.sabatini@st-peters.ca](mailto:paula.sabatini@st-peters.ca)

### JOIN US AT BISHOP'S DINNER

Join friends, family and the Catholic community for the 20th Bishop's Dinner. When: **Friday, May 8,** at Telus Convention Centre (120 9 Ave SE., Calgary). Funds raised will support the St. Francis Xavier Chaplaincy Program and the continued spiritual formation of young adults throughout our Diocese. More information: [bishopsdinner.ca](http://bishopsdinner.ca)

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE OUTDOOR WAY OF THE CROSS** | **Good Friday, April 10**– St. Mary's Cathedral.



Faithfully  
FAITH. LIVED. FULLY.



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
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*of Calgary*



# Caring for the sick in this world

The Pastoral Letter for Catholic Health Care issued by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops offers eight guiding principles:

- First, the healthcare ministry of the Church is rooted in and modeled after the person and compassionate healing ministry of Jesus Christ, the “Divine Healer.”
- Second, like Jesus, the healing ministry of the Church is aimed at the health and well-being of the whole person: physical, spiritual, mental, emotional and even social.
- Third, the ministry of health and healing is an unmistakable sign that the Reign of God is close at hand, present in the very midst of our wounded and vulnerable humanity.
- Fourth, the healing ministry keeps every Christian in close touch with the deep mystery of suffering. In the presence of this mystery, every Christian is invited to become a sharer in the redemptive suffering of Christ.
- Fifth, there is a spiritual affinity between prayer and healing. Praying for those who are sick or suffering goes to the very heart of the healing ministry and thus to the heart of every Christian.
- Sixth, yet another essential feature of the healing and caring ministry of the Church is a deep and uncompromising respect for human life – from its very conception to its natural death – and an equally deep reverence for the dignity of every person.

The 28th World Day of the Sick was celebrated on February 11, 2020. Saint John Paul II initiated the World Day of the Sick to encourage the faithful to pray for those who suffer from illnesses and for those who care for and minister to them. February 11 is also the Optional Memorial for Our Lady of Lourdes.

In 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared many times to St. Bernadette in the hollow of the rock at Lourdes. Since then, there have been many miraculous cures and conversions attributed to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Lourdes.

The Roman Catholic Church has a long history of founding and engaging in the provision of healthcare rooted in a faithful response to the Gospel call. “After this the Lord appointed seventy others ... Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’” (Luke 10: 1, 8-9.)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) reiterates this call and says, “Heal the sick!” The Church has received this charge from the Lord and strives to carry it out by taking care of the sick as well as by accompanying them with her prayer of intercession. She believes in the life-giving presence of Christ, the physician of souls and bodies.” (CCC, 1509.)



*Our Lady of Lourdes. Photo credit: Dennis Jarvis*

- Seventh, the Church's ministry of healing goes beyond the healthcare of individuals as such; it extends to the physical and social environment in which people live and work. This means that every Christian is called upon to be an advocate of justice and to help redress those unjust social structures that cause suffering to the disadvantaged groups in society.
- Eighth, compassionate generosity is also an important dimension of the Church's far-reaching ministry of healing. Christians are expected to give generously whenever people in distant lands suffer some unspeakable natural disaster, a tragic pandemic infection, or a severe human deprivation. Charity begins at home, but it must never stop there!

(Catholic Health Ministry in Canada, A Pastoral Letter by the Permanent Council of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005.)

Throughout Canada's history, many women and men, clergy, religious and lay, have dedicated themselves to living out these principles by providing medical and spiritual care for the sick. In Alberta, communities of religious women founded the provincial hospital system and delivered quality healthcare with a preferential option for the poor. The first hospital in this province was established in 1863 by the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns) in St. Albert. The founding of the hospitals spread from this beginning and fostered the hospital system we enjoy today. We are all indebted to this rich legacy of faith, fortitude, perseverance and care of the sick.

Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of the Sick, "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28), offers comfort to the sick saying "brothers and sisters who are ill, your sickness makes you in a particular way one of those "who labour and are burdened", and thus attract the eyes and heart of Jesus. In him, you will find light to brighten your darkest moments and hope to soothe your distress."

Pope Francis also offers timely encouragement to healthcare providers, "may you always strive to promote the dignity and life of each person, and reject any compromise in the direction of euthanasia, assisted suicide or suppression of life, even in the case of terminal illness. I echo Pope Francis' message and encourage healthcare providers "to be consistent with your "yes" to life and to the human person. Your professionalism, sustained by Christian charity, will be the best service you can offer for the safeguarding of the truest human right, the right to life."

Most Rev. William T. McGrattan, *Bishop of Calgary*

February, 2020



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Share stories of your faith in action within your parishes, community, lay associations or at work.

Send your photos and write-ups to [communications@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:communications@calgarydiocese.ca) by the 15th of each month.

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Phone 403-218-5500  
[communications@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:communications@calgarydiocese.ca)

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# Consecrated life is not dying, it's renewing

Written by Jessica Cyr



Have you ever met someone that made a distinct impression? I think most of us could answer “yes.” Maybe that person didn’t do or say very much, but in their very presence or being, they made an impact, small or large.

I first encountered a religious sister when I was in kindergarten. It was during Lent. Sister (the sands of time have eroded her name) was kind and gentle, listened intently to our five-year-old selves, and really seemed to know about Jesus.

Until that day, I had not yet understood that Jesus had eventually grown from the baby I knew in picture books to the man who would eventually die on the cross for all of us. I remember feeling surprised and a little afraid of this new revelation, but Sister’s gentle demeanour and peace about the whole thing made me think that this grown-up Jesus must be quite wonderful, and then I was very curious.

A quick online search tells me that Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul were nearing the end of their ministry in my hometown. Though I can’t recognize that sister from the photographs, I carry the memory of the day she illuminated Christ for me. I eventually forgot about her – in fact, this memory didn’t resurface until I sat down to write this story – but the imprint on my heart, the one about grown-up Jesus never left me.

It is thousands of small moments like that one that mark the lives of many of us who live in the Diocese of Calgary – churchgoing or not – and exactly why a day of prayer for Consecrated Life is something to celebrate. World Day for Consecrated Life was founded by Pope John Paul II in 1997. Men and women renew their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in parishes worldwide.

*Continued on page 6*

"The vocation of consecrated men and women have been for our Church from her earliest days a living witness to the truth of the fact God alone is enough and it is ultimately He to whom we must cling now in preparation for an eternity of adoring Him forever," said Fr. Cristino Bouvette prior to the renewal of vows at the St. Francis Xavier chaplaincy's Mass.

Spanning the front of St. Bernard's church on the Feast of the Presentation, Calgary's consecrated women, along with a few priests, echoed Anna and Simeon, whose words were shared in the gospel, in proclaiming God's gifts and committing themselves to service of Him.



*Consecrated Life Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, Calgary - Photo: Fr. Mariusz Sztuk.*

"I didn't realize there were so many sisters in our diocese," a friend said to me after we'd welcomed representatives from some of the 28 communities of consecrated men and women within the diocese. Neither had I, I admitted, scanning the mostly unfamiliar faces.

The answer to that may lie in the fact that many of them are continually at work with the poor, sick and marginalized, not on the doorsteps of suburban housewives. But if we made a little effort to venture downtown to the FCJ Centre, or west to Mount St. Francis in Cochrane we would find religious houses of peaceful retreat.

Walk into St. Mary's High School and you might find Sr. Dianne Turner, Franciscan Sister of St. Elizabeth teaching a class. Throughout our city and surrounding communities there are men and women of varying charisms working and witnessing to the love of Christ.

Relatively new to Calgary, but friends with various parishes in our city are the Seeds of the Word Sisters, hailing from Brazil. Inspired by their community is Brittany Andreas, 19-year-old student at Mount Royal University.

After connecting with campus ministries, reigniting her faith and looking to the future, she thought "I need to be open to everything. I can't force my own vocation."

*Continued on page 7*





*Ascension of Our Lord School Grade 9 students retreat with Sr. Madeleine Gregg, fcJ at the FCJ Centre.*



*Faithful Companions of Jesus Sisters enjoying their outing to Banff.*

She began visiting the Seeds of the Word sisters' home with a few other students. Soon, half-hour visits turned to two-hour heart-to-hearts.

"Hearing the stories of how they came to consecrated life was really beautiful," Andreas said,

"It was also inspiring to know that they didn't have perfect backgrounds either, because we all have mistakes that we've made."

I could relate, but was inspired by the courage that Andreas showed in considering the consecrated life. When I was the same age, I wanted to run away if a sister talked to me. Having few encounters with consecrated women in the flesh, my distorted view landed somewhere between my Dad's stories of nuns reprimanding him in elementary school, the Sound of Music's cloistered Carmelites and the singing nuns of Sister Act. Like Andreas, it was when I had real-life encounters with consecrated men and women that I came to realize my fear was baseless.

In a conversation with Sr. Dianne Turner after Mass, I admitted to her that my impression of the consecrated vocation when I was younger and unmarried was that it meant being alone. I had many examples of Catholic wives and mothers to draw from, but not very many sisters.

"Really in the end we are not alone because the Lord is with us," she replied,

"[We have] the angels, the saints, we are never alone. Even if we're the only one left in our order, which will soon happen to me, but I don't feel alone because the Lord is always with me."

In my collective encounters with people like Sr. Dianne or the Seeds of the Words Community, I soon realized that consecrated life also means being a part of and serving a community, and that like in a marriage, that community becomes a family of love.

Sr. Dianne went on to say later in our conversation that what the young need is to pray and ask God what it is He wants. That is the very definition of discerning a vocation – listening for God's voice.

CCO missionary Chris Kokot, 24, like Andreas has been inspired by the sisters in Seeds of the Word community.

*Continued on page 8*

"I'm thinking about their sabbatical year after my commitment to CCO is finished," he said.

Sharing about how he wants to pursue God's call for him, he said, "I think the Church needs people who know Jesus in a personal way. Many people have barriers pop up for them when it comes to Church teaching, but people who truly know God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and live it out are what we need more of."

Chris spends his days with CCO reaching out to students on our city's post-secondary campuses, and getting to know them with the hope that they'll come to know God.

"You can know about God, or you can really know Him. There's a difference," he said.

It is because of the similarities between charisms or gifts of CCO and the Seeds of the Word community that draws Kokot towards a possible time of discernment with them.

Young, real and welcoming were key words in the rest of my talk with Kokot and Andreas, who felt like they could relate to the young sisters who throw snowballs and watch the same sort of movies.

It is true that many of the religious we see in Canada are, as Sr. Dianne put it bluntly, "old."

"But I can't help that I'm old," she said honestly, wishing that the young might see past the age of many of our consecrated and see the beauty in the life.

Her hope was to inspire women and men who might like to work in Canada, "there are so few sisters to start off with, and many young women, if they are called go online and find an order in the States.

"What we really need is the witness of religious life here."

"There are so many wonderful orders," she said of a few we discussed that are primarily in the United States, but we agreed that in our own nation, there is still good work to be done.

In that spirit, Sr. Dianne and the Assembly of Women Religious have a retreat planned on March 7 to encourage women age 16-35 to come and get their questions about religious life answered from sisters representing several communities.

It is with hope that we must look forward to a new generation of consecrated people, while we treasure the work and wisdom of the last.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Lenten Mission for Parents & Teachers

Feb. 23 at 7 pm

St. Michael's Catholic Community,  
at 800 85 St SW Calgary



### Religious Vocations Retreat for Women

March 7 - All Day

Our Lady of Assumption at  
7624 39 Ave NW Calgary



### Young Adults Lenten Retreat

March 20 - 22

Camp Chestermere at  
1041 East Lakeview Rd. Chestermere



### Faith and Fun Night with the Flames

March 21 at 8 pm

Calgary Stampede

View all events at  
<http://news.calgarydiocese.ca>



# My first year as a Deacon

Written by Deacon Laing



*Deacon Dale Laing at St. Thomas More, Calgary*

It's been more than a year since I was ordained as a Permanent Deacon in the Catholic Church, and what a year it has been! Guiding me during the four-year formation journey was a combination of prayer, effective mentoring, spiritual direction, self-reflection and practical experience.

An instrumental topic to me, and that of my spiritual director, has been the transformation of one's ego. Every person he says, "whether they are aware of it or not, is engaged from the moment of birth in a titanic struggle to lead a life led by the spirit, or, a life led by the attractions of this world. He is fond of saying, "throughout our entire lives, but most especially a man in formation must grow increasingly aware of these two forces, each clamoring for our attention. One force leads to life, and the other to death".

The battleground in this great seesaw for our soul is a person's ego. It can serve as both sword and shield, our greatest ally, or, our greatest enemy. The successful path to life sees the pouring out, a little at a time from our old self (ego), then, filling the void with the love of Christ. Thus, guided by this new mixture of love, we gain greater strength to support our future actions and ministries.

All throughout my life, but especially during my diaconate formation, I came to fully realize the necessity of allowing this constant pouring out and re-filling, as a catalyst to mold myself anew.

Following that which promises life, I opened my heart wide to the workings of the Spirit and allowed my self-identity to shift toward the truth of Christ. Infused with a clearer sense of the necessity of living my life closer to God, I invited my wife and my family to join me in this new reality of love.

My spiritual director says that formation for a new deacon never stops and once ordained, the deacon must continually be open, and vulnerable, to the revelations which Christ wishes to share with him. A new deacon must continually desire to hold his ego aloft, so that with Christ's blessing, it may receive further refinement from the Holy Spirit. This willingness to constantly seek to have his ego molded by the Spirit of Christ, this change of heart, is at the very core of diaconal formation he says. Without it, no man can truly serve successfully in the capacity of deacon.



This continuous transformation of one's ego is key for us all. We must let go of doing things our own way, and supplant them with God's way. One must pour out the old self (one's former worldly attractions) to receive the new from God. Gradually, our willingness to seek Christ over that of the world is God's goal for us.



# A Welcome from Seeds of the Word Community

Written by Fr. Cristino Bouvette

To be honest, when they first pitched the idea to me, I was already fairly certain that it wasn't going to happen. "Would you ever consider travelling to Brazil, Father, to learn more about our community and experience our life?" Sister Mary Elisabeth asked me one day. Immediately turning them down proved not to be so easy, but I had my doubts about going. After additional time in prayer, discovering an utterly miraculous open block of time in my calendar precisely over the days the Sisters had invited me - with the bonus that my friend, Fr. Nathan Siray, former pastor and a friend of the Sisters was also invited - we decided to take the plunge! I could never have dreamed what God was already preparing for us down in Belém.

I have sensed a growing need to better understand the unique charism of the Seeds of the Word Community considering their expanding presence in our diocese coupled with the growing interest of our young people in discerning with them. After less than five years in Calgary, there was already a young woman from the community of Vauxhall living in one of their communities and my trip down was going to afford me the opportunity to visit her and have some of my questions answered.

Alissa Going was in Calgary to attend a day of prayer and discernment for women considering consecrated religious life in October 2014. I walked two sisters wearing their distinctive blue habits and white veils. Who were they? Alissa thought. Later, Sr. Mary Elisabeth would recount that they themselves didn't know what they were doing at that retreat. Upon arriving in Calgary their only concern was tracking down a parish where they could attend weekday Mass and were delighted to be greeted by the familiar and smiling face of Sister Diane Turner, also surprised to meet young, habited sisters in her parish. Naturally, she invited them to attend the day of prayer with her several days later. For Alissa, that series of chance meetings would change her life.

After learning more about their community, she decided to take up their offer to travel down to one of their houses in Brazil to experience what they call the Sabbatical Year. I asked Alissa to tell me more about what the year entailed and with her warm smile that beamed peace and her eyes closed, clutching her bible and notebook she said, "It's a time when anyone is invited to give a year of their lives to God and let themselves be transformed by His Word in the heart of the Seeds of the Word Community." She compared it to going to a year in Bible School or at the St. Therese School for Mission in Bruno, SK. The rest is history.

For myself as our diocesan Director of Vocations, and for Fr. Nathan as Alissa's former spiritual director, it's hard to describe the joy we received having the opportunity, brief as it was, to witness Alissa's life in the heart of the Seeds of the Word Community, but to also be welcomed into it ourselves. Pope Francis has often referred to God as a God of surprises. He surprised me with a trip to Brazil; He surprised Alissa with her vocation on a day of prayer; He has surprised the Seeds of the Word Community with the welcome they have received in the Diocese of Calgary. I can't wait to see the surprises He has in store for us all through these Seeds!

# Love takes Action

Written by Karissa Factura

A hundred days ago, my husband and I said our vows before the altar of our Lord. If you were to ask me five years ago if I would be where I am at now, I would not have imagined this present moment. In fact, sometimes when I wake up in the morning and he greets me good morning, I would still think to myself, “Oh right — I’m married!”

Quite honestly, sometimes I feel it has not sunk in... but then again, it has only been 100 days. These past few months, friends have always asked us, “How’s married life?” Almost every time, I would mutter a quick, “oh it’s great”, or “well, it’s new!” and such.

But how is it, really.

“It’s new.”

I have always thought that it will be an easy “transition” to the married life for Ryan and I because we have been together for many years, but I was caught by a surprise: I thought I knew him well enough; however, since we’ve been married, I have learned many new things about my husband! Don’t get me wrong: I knew what I was getting into — that the man I was going to marry was a man of values and had the characteristics I prayed for.

By new, I meant those things that you don’t really discover until you live together. And while some may think that you first need to experience living with someone before you marry them, they are completely missing out — being married (and now living together) gave us more reasons to get to know each other on a more meaningful level. While it could be difficult sometimes, I’ve learned that through those “new” experiences, we could still love each other even more.

“You need to communicate.”

Talk about the little things. Do not complain, nag, blame, or accuse. Your spouse cannot read your mind, and you cannot assume the other person knows what you’re thinking or feeling! There will be some occasions when they will know something is not right, but one



*Photo courtesy of Karissa & Ryan Factura*

cannot always expect this. It’s important to cultivate patience, especially when your spouse does things differently than you do — and even more when you think your way of doing things is much better. Ha!

## EXPERIENCE THE GIFT

Be a gift and allow your spouse to be a gift to you — to love you without speculating that they only do things for you out of obligation because now, you’re married. Allow your spouse to accept you and love you, knowing that they will find your self-offering a gift that is precious. Cherish and serve them because you love them. Allow your spouse to do the same and do not question or limit their love for you despite of however little or much they seem to do. Every time I ask Ry to do something for me and he isn’t really up for it, he would always say jokingly, “It’s okay! I’ll do it! Die to self!” It’s our running joke, and although he says it tongue in cheek, I appreciate it because I know that he is not only giving all he can, but he is giving all that he is.

I know we have a lifetime ahead as husband and wife, and even many more experiences, challenges that will come our way. We pray that this commitment of constantly choosing to love will always draw us back to the self-giving love that Christ had for his Church. May we always see this marriage as a gift that points and leads us to Christ. After all, our vocation is to lead each other to heaven.



# Men of the Diocese give St. Henry's new life

Written by Jessica Cyr



BEFORE



AFTER

High on a hill overlooking fields of barley, wheat, hay and grazing cattle sits the little country church. It can be seen from miles around if you know where to look, and as you drive closer to look upon its tall steeple and red roof you might feel as if you'd stepped back in time.

St. Henry's, founded by Fr. Albert Lacombe and area families in 1907, received a new coat of paint and a little more life on the fourth weekend of August when men from the Diocese of Calgary volunteered for the job.

"I knew it needed to be painted," said Fr. Myles Gaffney, parish priest of St. Michael's Parish in nearby Pincher Creek, "so I approached the Bishop who said 'lets nudge the men's ministries to see if they can get volunteers.'"

In stepped Sean Lynn of the God Squad men's ministry. He contacted professional painter Dan Lebsack, and off to the hamlet of Twin Butte they went to evaluate the work ahead.

When a weekend was chosen, the two made known that volunteers were needed, and a few responses rolled in. Armed with a paint sprayer, scissor lift donated by a nearby Hutterite colony, telehandler donated by a Calgary carpenter, scrapers and brushes, and the God Squad barbecue and food for Lynn to expertly prepare, the team set to work.

Bishop McGrattan arrived on the scene on Saturday to see everyone hard at work, "I think it's wonderful," he said of the entire initiative. "The men are inspired to work together."

Bishop McGrattan was welcomed by the volunteers and members of the Historical Society of St. Henry's who have assumed the role of caretakers of the church and cemetery since the parish closed in 2001. The Historical Society is made up of former parishioners, people whose family are buried in

*Continued on page 13*



(from top, left to right) Lyle Planger, Ken Wittkopf, Ron Schmidt, John Paul, Dallas McGlynn, Maxwell Pali, Joseph Cyr and family, Dan Lebsack, Bishop William McGrattan, Fr. Myles Gaffney, Sean Lynn, Louise Wittkopf and Noreen Fischbuch

the cemetery and those interested in preserving the site, according to the society secretary and treasurer Lois Johnston.

The group, who've been hard at work to keep St. Henry's in good repair with much of their own time and resources – with the help of visitor's donations – were happy to accept the help that came at the diocesan request.

A few hundred dollars is donated annually by visitors to the site, many who come just to see the classic country church and surrounding views, and many to visit the cemetery and to pray and enjoy the grotto and Stations of the Cross built by Bob and Noreen Bonertz, just one of the families who've lived there for over one hundred years.

Ken Wittkopf, whose wife Louise (nee Bonertz) grew up as a parishioner said, "We've talked about it for a few years, and we're glad it's happening because we don't want to lose it."

The value of this church to its parishioners was evident, as several who were not part of the painting crew stopped to see how it was coming along. As the painting went on, memories and stories were shared.

"I was baptized here, had my first communion and confirmation here," said Louise Wittkopf.

Noreen Fischbuch told stories of having lived right beside St. Henry's in the rectory, which was unused by the clergy at the time.

"I had eight children in that house," she said

referring to the house mere meters from the back of the church, "and one day, we were actually a little late for church, and Fr. Kramer looked up as we came in and tapped his watch."

Lois Johnston, whose grandfather Fred Klunker was one of the carpenters who built St. Henry's emphasised the value of the church to the community of families who descended from those who built the church. Quite a few of them still farm the surrounding land.

"My parents were married in this church, my family attended this church and my Mom was the organ player for years," she said, adding that she grew up on the farm beneath the hill on which St. Henry's stands.

The general feeling from the society and volunteers was one of hope for the legacy and the future of St. Henry's.

"The big churches came from these little churches," said Historical Society chairman Ron Schmidt, aptly speaking of the history of Catholicism in our country – it began with missionaries and settlers, from people building small country churches whose descendants fill the much-larger churches we see today.

Upstairs in the choir loft, children were encouraged to ring the bell during the Bishop's visit, and the sound was enjoyed by everyone below. Each person savouring their memories and nostalgia for the living and loving that went on at St. Henry's for over a hundred years.

# Canada & the World

This section compiles the top four news of interest to the Catholic community.



## Euthanasia law survey prompts backlash from Canadian bishops

In a strongly worded letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau — CCCB president Richard Gagnon reiterated the Catholic Church's opposition to government-sanctioned suicide.



## There is no humility without humiliation

Commenting on the day's Gospel, Pope Francis exhorts Christians to follow the path of humiliation as indicated by Jesus and John. He also urges pastors not to give in to worldliness, to the "temptation to climb".



## Chinese church charity appeals for medical supplies to fight coronavirus

As deaths continue to rise from the coronavirus epidemic, China faces a severe shortage of medical supplies. The urgent need for emergency treatment led many medical workers to be exposed to a dangerous environment.



## Pompeo Announces New Alliance for Religious Freedom

A new International Religious Freedom Alliance with 27 member states was announced on Wednesday by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. "Together, we say that freedom of religion or belief is not a Western ideal, but truly the bedrock of societies."



# MARCH

## 2020

### Liturgical Calendar

### 2019–2020

#### Year – A Series II

(S) Solemnity, (F) Feast, (M) Memorial,  
(M>OM) Memorial reduced to an Optional Memorial  
(OM) Optional Memorial (\*) no assigned rank  
Lect., Wkday, A-B: *Lectionary, Weekday*, A (1993) or B (1994)  
Lect., S&S: *Lectionary, Sunday and Solemnities* (2009)  
BG: *Book of Gospels* (2015)  
RL: *Lectionary: Ritual Masses, Masses for Various Needs and Occasions, Voice Masses, Masses for the Dead* (2014)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT Readings: no. 22, p. 116; BG, p. 60 1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 16-18, 25; 3:1-7++ 2nd Reading (longer): Romans 5:12-19 or 2nd Reading (shorter): Romans 5:12, 17-19 Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11	<b>2</b> ferial Readings: no. 224, p. 386 1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	<b>3</b> ferial Readings: no. 225, p. 389 1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11 Gospel: Matthew 6:7-15	<b>4</b> ferial Readings: no. 226, p. 391 1st Reading: Jonah 3:1-10 Gospel: Luke 11:29-32 OM: St. Casimir	<b>5</b> ferial Readings: no. 227, p. 393 1st Reading: Esther 14:1, 3-5; 12-14 Gospel: Matthew 7:7-12	<b>6</b> ferial Readings: no. 228, p. 395 1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:21-28 Gospel: Matthew 5:20-26	<b>7</b> ferial Readings: no. 229, p. 397 1st Reading: Deuteronomy 26:16-19 Gospel: Matthew 5:43-48 M>OM: St. Perpetua and St. Felicity
~ World Day of Prayer ~						
<b>8</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT Readings: no. 25, p. 121; BG, p. 62 1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4 2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10 Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9	<b>9</b> ferial Readings: no. 230, p. 399 1st Reading: Daniel 9:3, 4b-10++ Gospel: Luke 6:36-38 OM: St. Frances of Rome	<b>10</b> ferial Readings: no. 231, p. 401 1st Reading: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, 27-28, 31++ Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12	<b>11</b> ferial Readings: no. 232, p. 403 1st Reading: Jeremiah 18:18-20 Gospel: Matthew 20:17-28	<b>12</b> ferial Readings: no. 233, p. 405 1st Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10 Gospel: Luke 16:19-31	<b>13</b> ferial Readings: no. 234, p. 408 1st Reading: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28 Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46	<b>14</b> ferial Readings: no. 235, p. 411 1st Reading: Micah 7:14-15; 18-20 Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
<b>15</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT Readings: no. 28, p. 124; BG, p. 63 1st Reading: Exodus 17:3-7 2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 Gospel (longer): John 4:5-42 or Gospel (shorter): John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39a, 40-42	<b>16</b> ferial Readings: no. 237, p. 421 1st Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-15a Gospel: Luke 4:24-30	<b>17</b> ferial Readings: no. 238, p. 424 1st Reading: Daniel 3:25, 34-43 Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35 OM: St. Patrick	<b>18</b> ferial Readings: no. 239, p. 427 1st Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9 Gospel: Matthew 5:17-19 OM: St. Cyril of Jerusalem	<b>19</b> SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (S) Readings: Lect. S&S, no. 543, p. 778; BG, p. 430 or 431 1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 2nd Reading: Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22 Gospel: Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Gospel: Luke 2:41-51a	<b>20</b> ferial Readings: no. 241, p. 431 1st Reading: Hosea 14:1-9 Gospel: Mark 12:28b-34	<b>21</b> ferial Readings: no. 242, p. 434 1st Reading: Hosea 5:15b-66++ Gospel: Luke 18:9-14
<b>22</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT Readings: no. 31, p. 130; BG, p. 70 1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13 2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14 Gospel (longer): John 9:1-41 or Gospel (shorter): John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38	<b>23</b> ferial Readings: no. 244, p. 441 1st Reading: Isaiah 65:17-21 Gospel: John 4:43-54 OM: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo	<b>24</b> ferial Readings: no. 245, p. 443 1st Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12 Gospel: John 5:1-16	<b>25</b> THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD (S) Readings: Lect. S&S, no. 545, p. 782; BG, no. 11, p. 16 1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10d 2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:4-10 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38	<b>26</b> ferial Readings: no. 247, p. 449 1st Reading: Exodus 32:7-14 Gospel: John 5:18, 31-47++	<b>27</b> ferial Readings: no. 248, p. 452 1st Reading: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22 Gospel: John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	<b>28</b> ferial Readings: no. 249, p. 454 1st Reading: Jeremiah 1:1, 18-20 Gospel: John 7:40-53
<b>29</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT Readings: no. 34, p. 136; BG, p. 76 1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14 2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11 Gospel (longer): John 11:1-45 or Gospel (shorter): John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45 ~ Collection: Development and Peace ~	<b>30</b> ferial Readings: no. 251, p. 463; Gospel for Years A, B, p. 470 1st Reading (longer): Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-64++ or 1st Reading (shorter): Daniel 13:2, 4-6, 8, 15-16, 19-23, 28, 41-46, 48-64++ Gospel (Years A and B): John 8:1-11	<b>31</b> ferial Readings: no. 252, p. 472 Gospel: John 8:21-30				

**Lectionary: Weekdays references will change upon publication of the revised Lectionary for Weekdays.**

Given delays at the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, as of June 2018, there is no estimated date for the publication of the revised Lectionary.

# IN OUR HOME

Put others before yourself

*Phillipians 2:3*

In every thing, give thanks

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

Do your work from the heart

*Colossians 3:23*

Be merciful, as your Father is

*Luke 6:36*

Love one another

*1 Peter 1:22*



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