



St. Martha's Parish

3rd Sunday of Easter - April 14th 2024

Gospel Reflection - Luke 24:35-48



The disciples knew Him well, after three years of Galilee, of olive trees, of lakes, of villages, of walking together, and yet they don't recognize Jesus. He is the same and He is different, He is the same and He is transformed, He is the same as before but no longer as before: the Resurrection is not a simple coming back to life, it is moving forward, transformation, fullness. Jesus explained it with the parable of the grain of wheat that becomes an ear of wheat: it is buried as a small seed and rises from the earth as a ear full of wheat. I am consoled by the disciples' difficulty in believing, it is the guarantee that it is not an event invented by them, but a fact that shocked them. Then Jesus pronounces, to dispel fears and doubts, the simplest and most familiar words: "Look, touch, let's eat together! I'm not a ghost." And you feel Jesus' desire to be welcomed

as a friend returning from afar, to be embraced with joy. You cannot love a ghost or hold it close to you. 'Touch me': you want to be touched only by those who are friends and love you. The apostles surrender to a portion of fish, to the most familiar of signs, to the most human of needs, to lake fish and not to angels, to friendship and not to a prodigious theophany. They will tell it as proof of their meeting with the Risen One: we ate with Him after His resurrection (Acts 10.41). Eating is the sign of life; eating together is the most eloquent sign of a rediscovered communion; a gesture that strengthens the bonds of lives and makes them grow. And Jesus concludes: you are witnesses of these things. Not preachers, but witnesses, that's another thing. With the simplicity of children who have good news to share, and can't keep quiet, and you read it on their faces. The good news is this: Jesus is alive, He is the power of life, He fills us with peace, He cries our tears, He captures us within His resurrection, He lifts us to fullness, on eagle's wings, in time and forever.

The Liturgy – not an empty routine

All liturgy has meaning, and in the Catholic Church this meaning builds until it reaches the pinnacle of all our worship; the re-presentation of Christ's sacrifice on Calvary! But even though the Eucharist is the pinnacle, and the consecration the path by which we climb to that pinnacle, all the motions and words of the liturgy are meaningful. Every action of the priest, the deacon, the altar servers, and the parishioners is filled with meaning and purpose.

Contact Information

403-381-8891 • office@stmarthasparish.ca

Pastor: Fr. William Monis

To rent the Knights of Columbus Hall contact Marcus Lynch-Staunton (403) 359-4457

Mass, Confession, Prayer

Mass Times: Mon, Wed-Fri 9am Tue. 7pm
Sat. 5pm Sun. 9am & 11am

Mass time changes: on 15 April Mass is at 11:00 am

Reconciliation: Sat. 4pm or by appointment

Adoration: Fri. 10am-8pm following Mass – schedule permitting

Rosary: 30min before Mass - **Divine Mercy Chaplet**: Fridays

3pm **Divine Office**: Morning prayers after weekday morning Masses

Please pray for the sick in our parish:

Tom Jepp, Bill Bennett, Rita Bouw, John Zeinstra, Deborah Huneault, Katie Lindsay, Maureen Adamkewicz, Nico Escobar, Vera Schwartzkoff, Pauline Chabot, Joe Gatner, Anthony Johnston, Riley Svoboda, Devassy Palissery, Helen Smith, Kathleen Roth, August Schulze-Ebbinghoff, Ernest Geisler, Veronica Eagle Bear, Teresa Andron, Roz Walderman, Lou Karpick, Ellis Watson, Adeline Sherman, Linda Westgeest, Peter Danielson, Raymond Sander, Most. Rev. Gerard Pettipas, Bernie Yaretz, Theresa Blackwater, Viola Mogus, Robert Dubois.

Enlarge the Tent – Art of Accompaniment

“Removing our Sandals before the Sacred Ground of the Other” with Fr. Tim Boyle. Each gathering will begin at 10:15. We will celebrate Eucharist at 11:15. **Monday April 15:** “*Flourishing... not just maintaining the Faith*”

Mothers’ Rosary Group

The Mothers’ Rosary group will be meeting weekly downstairs at St. Martha’s for prayer and fellowship, **every Wednesday from 9:30-11:30**. Babysitting is provided. Please join us! We are looking for babysitters.

Soap for Hope Canada

If you have extra soap/toothpaste/shampoo or any hygiene items you’d like to donate to those in need, you can drop them off in the box by the church’s door.

Grocery Cards Program

Support our Parish! It is a KofC & CWL Fundraiser. Purchase your Grocery Cards in our gathering space after all weekend Masses or **make an e-transfer: knightscards9280@gmail.com indicating the STORE name. Orders received & paid for by Thursday, will be available for quick pickup at our Grocery Card stand at the Masses on the following Saturday / Sunday.**

Day Home run by our parishioner Helen

Joyful Day Home on the West side near the University: Helen is an active member of our parish, compassionate and caring; she is looking for two children ranging from 4 to 5 years old. Joyful Day Home is under the We R Kids umbrella | For info: hellowokingo@yahoo.ca

KofC outreach program

Thank-you to all the generous folks who have donated clothing, soap and snacks to be used for the outreach program. A special thanks to the Monday hobby group who have been knitting warm hats, scarves and other items to keep people warm this winter. If you are donating items, please consider the season as we are looking for warmer clothes and gently used items. As spring and summer approach have look in your cupboard for water bottles that aren’t using as we can certainly use those. Currently we are going out about once a week and delivering food and support to about 50 people in the downtown area. Please know that your donations are appreciated as well as any prayers you wish to offer. If this work interests you and/or you are interested in becoming involved with our Knights of Columbus Council please contact Grand Knight Mark Nixon or Ken Hakstol – 403. 382.9856

Mt. St. Francis Couples Weekend

Couples Weekend on **April 19-21**; to register contact Michele and Paul Grover changrover@shaw.ca or Tess and Renato Abanto: 403-615-6126 | april1686@gmail.com

Christians of the Holy Land

During the weekend **Apr. 20 & 21**, after all Masses, the Christians of the Holy Land will be selling handicrafts made in the Holy Land. Their purpose is to raise awareness and improve the quality of life for our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. All are welcome. Thank you for your support.

Mass intentions

Mon 15 Apr	11:00 am	All Souls
Tue 16 Apr	7:00 pm	Bryan Lengel +
Wed 17 Apr	9:00 am	Theresa Vanden Dungen + (Seasons 1:30pm Jim Tennant +)
Thu 18 Apr	9:00 am	Gruber family
Fri 19 Apr	9:00 am	All Souls
Sat 20 Apr	5:00 pm	Quiminh Jones +
Sun 21 Apr	9:00 am	Johannes Vogel +

Mass Intentions guidelines

To those requesting multiple Masses (be it for one person or several different people) please note that **only one Mass per person requesting** can possibly be prayed here in this parish. We will make every effort to schedule one Mass here on the date you are requesting. **We cannot hold Mass requests for more than 2 months, all other requests will be sent away.**

Donation envelopes

Donation envelopes for 2024 can be picked at the parish office. If you wish to sign up for Pre-Authorized Giving Plan please contact Moncy: finance@stmarthasparish.ca **For those who already have PAD, a box of special donations envelopes is available at the parish office.**

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary meets every **Saturday, at 10:00 am**, in the basement of St. Martha’s Church. All are welcome!

Called to serve!

Our parish needs people of good will to volunteer in any of the Ministry you are called to serve: **Lectors, Singers/Players for the choir, Sacristans, Hospitality team members and Eucharistic Ministers** for our Sunday Masses.

Abiding Together Podcast group

Abiding Together Podcast group for adult women is **Thursdays from 6:30pm - 8:00pm** in the gathering space at St. Martha’s. Bring your bibles and a notebook. More info here: <http://www.abidingtogetherpodcast.com/> or email Shanice scharchun@gmail.com

Assumption Charismatic Prayer meetings and potluck

Assumption Charismatic Prayer Group meet every Wednesday at 7:00 pm in Assumption hall. Their monthly potluck is on **the first Wednesday of each month**. Doors open at **5:30pm**, supper at 6pm with praise and worship starting at 7 pm at Assumption Hall. All are welcome!

STM Picture Directory

Mark your calendar: our parish is scheduled to have a Picture Directory on **May 2, 3 and 4**. **Book your appointment in the gathering space or call the office: it’s FREE.**

Help in the church’s garden wanted!

Mike, our rose gardener, is looking for another pair of hands to help him make beautiful the church’s garden. If you have some time to spare and you like gardening, call the parish office.

FORMED

Quality Catholic media for everyone: formed.org. Enter our Parish Code to register: 3FT2YD

Share the Mission Award

Nominations are now welcome for the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's "Share the Mission Award." This prestigious award recognizes community members, parents, students, and school staff who have: Offered outstanding or long term service for the benefit of our students; Accepted demanding challenges and set new standards for the rest of us to follow; Contributed, through action and deed, to the Catholic atmosphere of our schools; Demonstrated involvement and leadership in community / parish organizations; Reflected the Mission Statement of the Holy Spirit School Division in all actions. If you know of an individual or group you would like to nominate, please forward their name to the Holy Spirit School Division Office **by June 7, 2024**. The nomination form is available online on the division's website or by clicking on the following link: [Share the Mission Award Nomination Form](#)
For more information, contact Rhonda Kawa at (403) 327-9555.

Youth nights

Join the NET team for fun games and snacks. There will be a new discussion topic each week.

Grades 6-9: Every Wednesday, 7:00 - 8:30 pm at **St. Martha's**

Grades 9-12: Every Sunday, 7:00 - 9:00 pm at **Assumption hall**

Questions? Get in touch lethbridge@netcanada.ca

Diocesan Women's Conference

Join *Beloved Daughters* Ministry for their second annual women's conference entitled, "Worthy and Made New." Conference will be held from **May 3-4, 2024 at St. Michael's Church (Calgary, AB)** with guest speakers Crystalina Evert and Fr. Anthony Sortino, LC. For more information visit: www.beloveddaughtersyyc.com *Beloved Daughters* received permission to host the event from the Diocese.

Mental Health Learning Sessions by Holy Spirit Catholic School Division

Every session will take place in-person at the **Sandman Signature Hotel** in Lethbridge, **Essie's Ballroom** | Online sessions will be available on Google Meet. Doors open at 5:00pm, dinner served at 5:30. Presentation will start at 6pm and go to 7:30pm | RSVP by email: woitteb@holyspirit.ab.ca

Apr 18: *Emotional Regulation - How to help our kids when they have big feelings* - Ft Allie and Bailey from True Balance Counselling

May 14: *Digital Detox* - Ft Lethbridge Family Services

Pastoral Care Ministry Training

The Diocese of Calgary invites individuals who feel called to assist their parish in a healing ministry. Sessions: Saturdays, April 20, 2024 & May 4, 2024 | Where: Catholic Pastoral Centre - 120 17 Ave SW, Calgary | **Deadline to register: April 15** | Registration Fee: \$70 pp. For info: <https://www.catholicyyc.ca/pastoralcare.html>

Immaculate Heart of Mary

In 2024, the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is celebrated on June 8. Beginning on April 15, we have a **Marian Pilgrimage occurring in our school division**. This statue of Mary will travel from school to school, and parish to parish; the statue will be at St. Martha's during the weekend **20-21 April**.

SFXC Events for young adults

April 27th, Saturday = 5pm Mass @ St. Martha's. Social after

Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass

The CWL Ladies of St. Basil's and Assumption are inviting you to *Our Lady of Good Counsel Mass* at **St. Basil's on April 26, at 7pm**. All members of Lethbridge and District are welcome: let's celebrate together! Refreshments will be served after Mass in the church hall.

March for life, 9 May

LOCATION: The Alberta Legislature - Violet King Henry Plaza

WHY ATTEND: Join thousands at this peaceful event to show the size, strength, and solidarity of the pro-life movement to the public and government. **Mass at 10am, dinner at 6pm** | For info: www.albertamarchforlife.com

Vocations Rally

Please join us at the Vocations Rally on **Sun, April 21 from 11 am to 3:30 pm at St. Michael's Church in Calgary!** Discover how to build a culture of vocation, whether you're discerning your own calling or supporting others. Hear from experts such as Dr. Ryan Topping, Fr. Cristino and Fr. Santiago, Bishop McGrattan, enjoy a free lunch, and pray for our vocations! Let's rally together for the future of our Church! Register at: www.catholicyyc.ca/vocations

Sacraments

Baptism Infant baptism is celebrated following the completion of our parish baptism preparation program. New and expectant parents are invited to contact Zachary Hampton, our Sacraments Coordinator, for more information: sacraments@stmarthasparish.ca

First Holy Communion, Confirmation: To register; fill out registration form on our [website](#). Contact Zachary Hampton, Sacraments Coordinator, for more information: sacraments@stmarthasparish.ca

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): If you are interested in becoming Catholic or know anyone who is, please register on the parish website as soon as possible. For more information, call the office or email: sacraments@stmarthasparish.ca

Marriages/Marriage Preparation: Couples registered within the parish are required to make arrangements at least **six months prior, no exception**, to the date of marriage by calling the office to schedule interviews with Fr. William and completing the marriage preparation program. Couples complete the marriage preparation course AFTER their first interview with a cleric. Calgary diocese marriage preparation courses: catholicyyc.ca/marriage_prep. There are also classes available at All Saints Parish, Lethbridge.

Anointing of the Sick If you have a relative who has been admitted to hospital please call the parish office.

Our parish relies on your Sunday offerings for maintenance and growth. By making your pre-authorized offertory gift, you are providing crucial support to care for your parish.

Contact our parish office to set up a direct debit deposit.

Please prayerfully discern where you are called to serve Our Lord at St. Martha's.

Unearthing the diamond

Throughout these Sundays after Easter, the Scripture readings constantly demonstrate how the early disciples and communities were gradually processing all that they had gone through.

In the gospel, particularly today's account from St Luke, Jesus is "opening their minds to understand the Scriptures", just as he did with the Emmaus disciples on their way back home, disheartened as they were. Opening our hearts is not enough. The ideal, at both the individual and communal level, involves, for Cardinal John Henry Newman, a union of ethical and devotional praxis on the one hand and critical self-reflection on the other. In short, **the union of clear heads and holy hearts.**

Adult faith cannot simply limit itself to devotion. That explains the gradual processing by the early Church of the turning point that Easter brought about and that made more and more disciples join in by a deeper grasp of what had been transmitted in the written Word of God from generations past.

This is the major challenge ahead which all faith communities need to face today. We are so distant in time from that experience we read about in the Scriptures and which has been foundational for entire subsequent generations. Yet we can also be so near to that same experience, which transcends time because Christ risen is beyond time and space.

Yet our pathways still cross dark nights and open questions which call for light and answers that can give solace both to the mind and heart. **We still need to experience the risen Christ in our journeys** in order not to give in or falter in the wake of the numerous Good Fridays that continue to mark our days and the unfolding of history.

This is the challenge of evangelisation today. As so often affirmed, **evangelisation is not about teaching but about facilitating the encounter with Christ in life.** We need to radically rethink our way of doing things, of proclaiming Christ, of speaking about his divinity and resurrection, or about forgiveness, humility, and mercy.

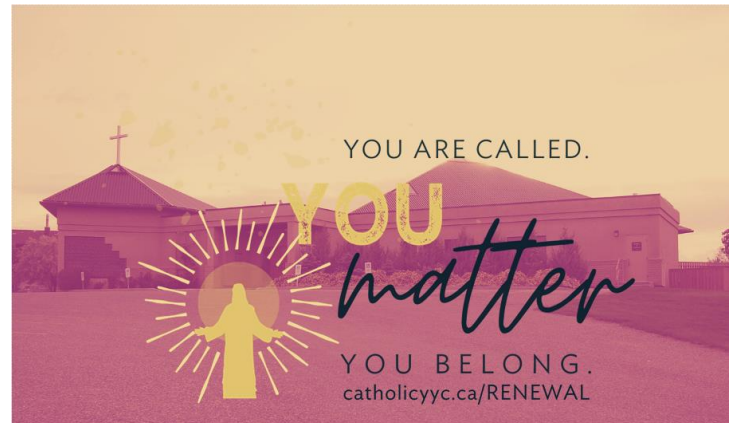
The style of evangelising already suggested by Vatican Council II was that of a Church in the company of people with so many diverse world views and beliefs. **What needs to be put at the centre in this context is the good life, a new, resurrected life.**

This new life, our true life, this "diamond" many a time is buried deep within us, formed under the intense pressure of our lives, needing to be searched for, uncovered and separated from all the debris of ego that surrounds it. Like Jesus, the true self must be resurrected and, as Rohr writes, that process is not resuscitation but transformation. - *Fr René Camilleri*

Parish renewal update

Our Parish Renewal gathering needs YOUR input. You are invited to be part of this new journey: join us on **Sunday, April 21 at 12:30 pm.** We will have lunch together, followed by a community prayer and discernment process that includes small group discussions (from 1:00 to 3:00pm).

It's a great opportunity to provide feedback on our life journey with our Church (the good and the bad!), to tell your story and help move us all closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Living as Missionary Disciples

Let us envision and pray about ways of renewing the culture of faith within our own parishes and communities. Let us continue to create communities where those who have been renewed can find continued nourishment and strength in their journey of faith. Everywhere we turn in Church circles these days, we are hearing the words discipleship, evangelization, disciples in mission and missionary discipleship. All of these words and phrases point to one important reality, that as baptized followers of Christ, we are also missioned to go forth and share the Good News with others. So many Catholics grew up thinking that their faith was something that was private and to be kept to oneself. Catholics have been reluctant to speak to others about their faith life or their relationship with Christ. The bishops, religious communities of women and men along with lay leaders in the Church are seeing the need to counter that silence with calls for engagement, encounter and renewal. One of the loudest voices, of course, for this renewal is Pope Francis! "The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization: indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love." (Evangelii Gaudium, 120)

This call for renewal reminds us of the words of Isaiah, "See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Is. 43:19) Catholics throughout the world are feeling encouraged by this sense of openness and renewal that is being promoted. People have a growing sense of the Holy Spirit being at work in this call for renewal. Our Diocese is responding with the Pastoral renewal and YOU are part of it:

you belong, you matter, you are called!

YOU ARE CALLED.
YOU MATTER.
YOU
belong
catholicyc.ca/RENEWAL



ST. MARTHA'S PARISH
RENEWAL
Gathering



SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2024

12:30 PM ~ LUNCH
1:00 - 3:00 PM ~ RENEWING OUR COMMUNITY