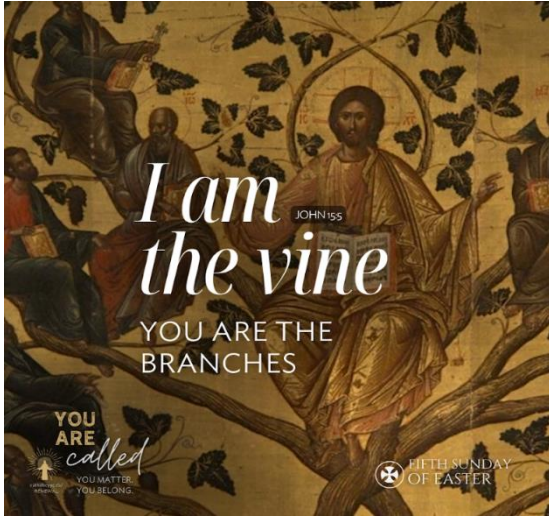




# St. Martha's Parish

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - April 28<sup>th</sup> 2024

Gospel Reflection - John 15:1-8



I am the vine, the real one. Christ is the vine, I am the branch: He and I are the same: same plant, same life, single root, single sap. He in me and I in Him, like a son in his mother. And my Father is the vine grower: God told with the simple words of life and work. A God who works on me, gets busy around me, does not hold the scepter but the shears, does not sit on the throne but on the wall of my vineyard. To make me bear more and more fruit. And then an absolute novelty: while in the prophets and psalms of the First Testament, God was described as the owner of the vineyard, a hard-working farmer, a careful grape harvester, something completely different from the vines, now Jesus states something revolutionary: I am the vine, you are the branches. We are part of the same plant, like sparks in fire, like a drop in water, like breath in air. With the Incarnation of Jesus -God who is grafted into humanity and into me-, an

extraordinary thing happened: the owner of the vineyard became vine, the sower became seed, the potter became clay, the Creator became a creature. The Jesus-vine pushes the sap into all my branches and circulates divine strength through every fiber of mine. God who is intimate to me, who flows inside me, wants me to be more and more alive and more fruitful thru gestures of love... Which branch would like to detach itself from the plant? Why would it ever want to die? Every branch that bears fruit is pruned so that it bears more fruit. Pruning the vine does not mean amputating, sending evil or suffering, but rather giving strength; any farmer knows this: pruning is a gift for the plant. This is what the vine grower-God wants for me: Bearing fruit is a symbol of possessing divine life (Brown). God works to increase, to intensify all that is most beautiful and promising that lives within us. We carry a treasure in our clay vases, a divine treasure: there is a love that rises along the stumps of all the vineyards, of all existences, a love that rises within me and bathes every fiber. If we knew what energy is in human creatures! We have a life inside us that comes before us and goes beyond us. It comes from God, the root of life, who repeats to every little branch: "I need you for fragrant and sweet bunches, for a harvest of sun and honey".

### Please consider why Go Perfume Free to Church

Out of compassion for others, please come fragrance-free. It may surprise us to learn that millions of people around the world suffer from mild to very serious allergic, asthmatic, immunologic and neurological reactions to perfumes, colognes and synthetically fragranced products. For the average person, breathing in fragrances from perfumes, colognes, hair sprays, deodorants, air fresheners and/or cleaners can just be a little annoying, ...but for a growing number of others, these smells, called 'emissions of volatile organic compounds,' can be a form of torment that throws their bodies into reactive overdrive.

### 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

**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, Deborah Huneault, Katie Lindsay, Maureen Adamkewicz, Nico Escobar, Vera Schwartzkoff, Pauline Chabot, Joe Gatner, Anthony Johnston, Riley Svoboda, Devassy Paliserry, 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.

### 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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### 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.**

### Lethbridge Pro-Life Scholarships

**ATTENTION Grade 12 and College/University Students! You can now apply for Lethbridge & District Pro-Life Association's Scholarships, due May 24, 2024!** Two **Elsie Alexander Pro-Life Scholarships** are available for grade 12 students, and two scholarships for Post-Secondary students - a **Laura Winters Stegen Essay Scholarship** and a **Henry Vandenberg Pro-Life Work/Volunteer Scholarship** for those living in the Lethbridge and District Pro-Life Association area who have proven leadership in encouraging respect for all human life. Scholarship application forms can be downloaded from our website: <https://www.lifelethbridge.org/scholarships>  
In addition, SAVE THE DATE for our HIKE **FOR LIFE** Fundraiser for Lethbridge Pro-Life/Elsie's House on **June 8, 2024; 9 AM** at Henderson Lake Kiwanis Shelter. More info to come!

### Mass intentions

Mon 29 Apr	9:00 am	Zdenka Music +
Tue 30 Apr	7:00 pm	Omer Charest +
Wed 1 May	9:00 am	Nolan Little Bear
Thu 2 May	9:00 am	Maria & Anthony Straga +
Fri 3 May	9:00 am	Bob Hagerty +
Sat 4 May	5:00 pm	Eric Vogel +
Sun 5 May	11:00 am	Emmanuela Nwaheri +

### 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](mailto: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. More info here: <http://www.abidingtogetherpodcast.com/> or email Shanice [scharchun@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### 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](http://www.albertamarchforlife.com)

### Holy Spirit School Division International program

We are looking for Home Stay families interested in hosting European and Japanese students. We also are looking for a place for a 17 year old Italian boy who will be here from September until June. Please contact: [homestay@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:homestay@holyspirit.ab.ca)

### Lethbridge People of Praise

"Getting to Know" weekend retreat: Date: **May 24-26<sup>th</sup>**, Location: St Joseph's School, 1413 23rd Ave Coaldale. Whether you are born again or new to faith in Christ, this weekend is for you.

### 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:woitteb@holyspirit.ab.ca)

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

### St. Vincent de Paul Collection

St. Vincent de Paul needs YOUR help and asks for your generosity: on the first Sunday of the month there will be volunteers collecting your donation at the end of Mass. THANK YOU!

### SFXC Events for young adults

#### May Events

Saturday, May 11th = Pilgrimage w/ Mass

Friday, May 17th = Adoration @ Assumption Church. Boardgames after

#### June Events

Saturday, June 1st = 5pm Mass @ Assumption. Social and Formation Session after.

Saturday, June 8th = Hike for Life (organized by Lethbridge Pro-Life)

Friday, June 21st = Adoration @ Assumption. Social at Henderson after

### CWL Mother's Day flower fundraiser

St. Martha's CWL is having a Mother's Day flower fundraiser. Orders along with payment can be submitted after masses this weekend **April 27-28**. Order will be ready for pick up on May 11th after 5pm Mass. Use of the proceeds will go towards youth programs at our Parish.

### ST. AMBROSE CWL (COALDALE) 75TH ANNIVERSARY

St. Ambrose CWL council is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on **Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**, 2024 starting with Mass at 5 p.m. at St. Ambrose Parish; banquet at St. Joseph's School gym at 6:30 p.m. Banquet ticket \$40 each will be available in mid-April, payable by cash, cheque or send e-transfer at [stambrosecwl@gmail.com](mailto:stambrosecwl@gmail.com). Deadline to get ticket(s): May 31, 2024. For more information, contact Lydia by email at [marialydia@telus.net](mailto:marialydia@telus.net) or call 403.345.7788.

### Badlands Passion Play

July 6-21, 2024. There are a limited number of 2-for-\$115 coupons available. Buy now and choose your seats and performance date later. Tickets and more information at [badlandsamp.com](http://badlandsamp.com)

### Living Rosary at STM

CWL is hosting a living rosary on **Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**. Everybody is invited!

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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: [catholicycyyc.ca/marriage\\_prep](http://catholicycyyc.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.



## Being one with Jesus, the Trinity, with one another

The vine and the branches share the same lymph, the same life. ... But, being inanimate, neither the vine nor the branches are 'aware' of this union! ... The strength of Eucharistic Communion is precisely that we become one spirit with Jesus and this "one spirit" is ultimately the Holy Spirit. ... In other words, in the Eucharist what took place in the life of Jesus is repeated. It is the Holy Spirit that gave Christ to the world at the moment of his birth (in fact, Mary conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit); at the moment of his death, it is Christ that gave the Holy Spirit to the world (in fact, as he was dying, he 'gave of his Spirit' (John 19:30). Likewise in the Eucharist the Holy Spirit gives us Christ in the consecration and Christ gives us the Holy Spirit in Communion. ... It is the Holy Spirit that creates our intimacy with God. ... St. Thomas Aquinas calls the Eucharist the 'sacrament of love.' He explains that love alone brings about union with the living Christ. In fact, **love is the only reality through which two separate living beings can become one without losing their individual identity.** If the Holy Spirit is said to be 'the communion of Christ,' it is because he is God's love. (*The Eucharist, Our Sanctification*)

What kind of communion is established between us and Christ in the Eucharist? In John 6:57 Jesus says: "As the Father, who has life, sent me and I live for the Father, so also he who eats me will live for me". The preposition "for" (in Greek, διὰ) indicates both a movement of origin and a movement of destination. It means that whoever eats the body of Christ lives "from" him, that is, because of him, by virtue of the life that comes from him, and lives "for" him, that is, for his glory, his love, his Kingdom. As Jesus lives of the Father and for the Father, so, by communicating ourselves to the holy mystery of his body and his blood, we live of Jesus and for Jesus. In fact, **it is the strongest vital principle that assimilates the less strong one to itself, not vice versa.** It is the vegetable that assimilates the mineral, not vice versa; it is the animal that assimilates both the vegetable and the mineral, not vice versa. So now, **on the spiritual level, it is the divine that assimilates the human to itself, not vice versa.** So that while in all other cases the one who eats assimilates what he eats, here it is the one who is eaten who assimilates to himself whoever eats it. To the one who approaches to receive him, Jesus repeats what he said to Augustine: "It will not be you who will assimilate me to you, but it will be I who will assimilate you to me". **In the Eucharist, therefore, there is not only communion between Christ and us, but also assimilation; communion is not just the union of two bodies, of two minds, of two wills, but it is assimilation to the one body, the one mind and will of Christ. "Whoever unites himself with the Lord forms one Spirit with him"** (1 Cor 6:17). That of nutrition – of eating and drinking – is not the only analogy we have of Eucharistic communion, even if it is irreplaceable.

Reflecting on the Eucharist is like seeing ever wider horizons opening up in front of oneself as one advances, as far as the eye can see. In fact, the Christological horizon of communion that we have contemplated up to now opens onto a Trinitarian horizon. In other words, **through communion with Christ we enter into communion with the whole Trinity.** In his "priestly prayer", Jesus says to the Father: "May they be one as we are. I in them and you in me" (Jn 17:23). Those words: "I in them and you in me" mean that Jesus is in us and that the Father is in Jesus. Therefore, one cannot receive the Son without also receiving the Father with him. The word of Christ: "Whoever sees me sees the Father" (Jn 14: 9) also means "whoever receives me receives the Father". The ultimate reason for this is that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one and inseparable divine nature, they are "one".

From these dizzying heights, let us now return to earth and pass to the second dimension of Eucharistic communion: **communion with the body of Christ which is the Church.** Let us recall the words of the Apostle: "Since there is only one bread, we, although many, are one body: in fact, we all share in the one bread". St. Augustine sees an analogy in the way in which the two bodies of Christ are formed: the Eucharistic and the ecclesial. In the case of the Church, we have the multitude of people who, united by evangelical preaching, kneaded in water in baptism and cooked in the fire of the Spirit, form the body which is the Church. In this regard, the word of Christ immediately comes to meet us: "Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (Mt 5, 23-24). If you go to receive communion, but you have offended a brother and you are not reconciled, you have a grudge, you resemble – St. Augustine said to the people – to a person who sees a friend arriving whom he has not seen for years. He runs to meet him, gets up on tiptoe to kiss him on the forehead... But in doing this he doesn't notice that he's stepping on his feet with nailed boots. The brothers and sisters are the feet of Jesus who still walks the earth.