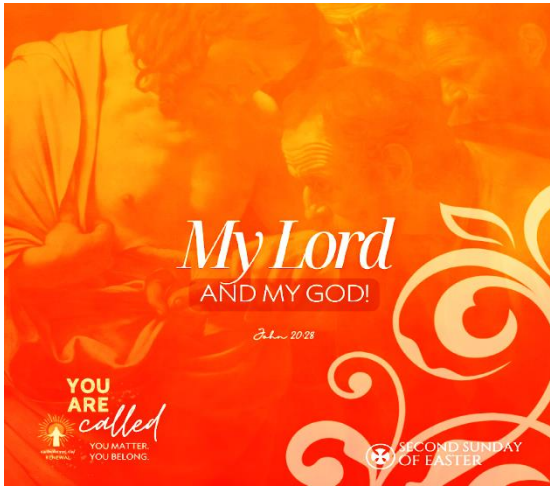




# St. Martha's Parish

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter - April 7<sup>th</sup> 2024

Gospel Reflection - John 20:19-31

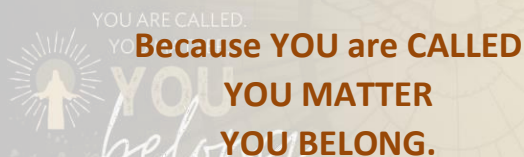


The disciples were locked in the house for fear of the Jews; house of darkness and fear, while outside it is spring: and Jesus came through closed doors and stayed in their midst, in the center of their fear, in the midst of them, not above them, not in front, but in the center, because everyone is equally important. He is at the center of the community, in the encounter, in the bond: "the Spirit of the Lord does not live in the 'I', not in the 'You', he lives between the I and the You" (M. Buber). In their midst, without sensational gestures, just being there: presence is the other name of love. Jesus does not accuse, He does not reproach, He does not abandon, He "is in the middle", a force of cohesion of the atoms and of the world. *Peace be with you*, He announces, like a caress on your fears, on your feelings of guilt, on your unachieved dreams, on the

sadness that discolors your days. The events of Easter are not simple "appearances of the Risen One", they are meetings, with all the splendor, the humility, the generative power of the meeting. Eight days later, Jesus is still there: He sent them out into the streets, and He finds them still locked in that same room. And instead of raising His voice or issuing ultimatums, instead of retreating due to the imperfection of those lives, Jesus comes to meet, accompanies the nascent faith of His disciples. *Look, touch, put your finger...* The Resurrection did not close the nail holes, it did not heal the wounds. Because death on the cross is not a simple accident to be forgotten: those wounds are the glory of God, the highest point that His crazy love has reached, and for this reason they will remain eternally open. He showed His disciples His wounds, all His humanity. And within Him was the whole divinity. *Put your hand here*: sometimes I get lost in imagining that perhaps one day I too will hear the same words, I too will be able to put, trembling, being led, blind with tears, put my hand into the heart of God. And feel beloved. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed! The last beatitude is for us, for those who struggle, for those who grope, for those who do not see and stumble, for those who start again. This is how the Gospel ends, this is how our discipleship begins: with a blessing, with the scent of joy, with the risk of happiness, with a promise of life capable of crossing all the pain of the world, and the bloody deserts of history.

## Important News – Parish Renewal update

Why should your heart be heard within our  
Diocesan Parish Renewal?



[catholicyycc.ca/RE](http://catholicyycc.ca/RE) Read more on page 3

## Contact Information

403-381-8891 • [office@stmarthasparish.ca](mailto: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 12 April Mass is at 8:00am  
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

## Please pray for the sick in our parish:

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. This is the last gathering! It begins at 10:15, 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](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

### Mt. St. Francis Couples Weekend

Couples Weekend on **April 19-21**; to register contact Michele and Paul Grover [changrover@shaw.ca](mailto:changrover@shaw.ca) or Tess and Renato Abanto: 403-615-6126 | [april1686@gmail.com](mailto: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 8 Apr	9:00 am	Srecko & Antonja Ponjavic
Tue 9 Apr	7:00 pm	Howard Tennant +
Wed 10 Apr	9:00 am	Rae & Doris Hopkins & Family
Thu 11 Apr	9:00 am	Lane Little Bear
Good Sams	10:30 am	Ellsworth & Maryanne +
Fri 12 Apr	<b>8:00 am</b>	Carol Paulhus +
Sat 13 Apr	5:00 pm	Spark Family
Sun 14 Apr	9:00 am	KofC

### 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. Bring your bibles and a notebook. More info here: <http://www.abidingtogetherpodcast.com/> or email [Shanice.scharchun@gmail.com](mailto: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 thru IPC photo services: 1-800-391-5161 ext 114 for customer service.**

### 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.

### SFXC: Adoration followed by social

**April 12th @ 6:30pm, Assumption Church | Social to follow.** Come and see: everybody is welcome!

### 40 Hours Devotion for Vocations

This initiative invites us to pray continuously for forty hours before the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with a focus on increasing vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. The 40 Hours Devotion for Vocations was launched on Friday, March 1 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Our parish will participate in the Devotion **Friday, April 12 at 8 am to Sat, April 13 at midnight**. EVERYBODY is invited to be at the Presence of our Lord and to ask Him to send out workers into His harvest field.

### Pancake breakfast

Join us after Sunday Masses on April 7 for a delicious pancake breakfast in the Knights Hall. Great opportunity to socialize!

### 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 [lenthbridge@netcanada.ca](mailto:lenthbridge@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)

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

**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!

### An evening with GrACE

We invite you to join us for an evening of fellowship, food (wine and cheese), and the opportunity to learn more about the purpose and mission of GrACE, including a brief presentation highlighting Catholic Education in Southwest Alberta. Join us on **April 18, 6:00 to 8:00pm at St. Basil Catholic Education Centre**. RSVP to Felicia Sudo at: [sudof@holyspirit.ab.ca](mailto:sudof@holyspirit.ab.ca) by April 12.

### 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**.

To all the volunteers who offered  
their time and talents  
during the Easter Triduum:  
a heartfelt THANK YOU!

Indeed, you show us the joy coming from service!

### IMPORTANT NEWS: Parish renewal update

Come join us on Sunday afternoon April 21 in St. Martha's Gathering Space for a few hours of a community discernment process that will lead us through some possible options for you, your family, and your Parish.

We will discuss the 9 focused actions within the 5 areas of Parish life that all go to guide us in the 3 renewal priorities for our Parish:

1. Being a Church of Encounter and Witness.
2. Strengthening Family Life.
3. Forming Missionary Disciples in Christ.

Please consider putting this event on your calendar.

Thank you.

More information is coming soon.

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

## His Scars and Wounds – Proof of a Transformed Life

One of the truths about the resurrection is that Jesus' resurrection was physical not just spiritual or mystical. His disciples were able to touch, see, and hear Jesus' resurrected body with their own senses. By them experiencing his wounding of the crucifixion, Jesus was able to show solidarity with them that he can empathize with their own weaknesses, temptations, and trials (Heb. 2:18; Heb. 4:15), yet he overcame the world (John 16:33).

The archetypal encounter between doubting Thomas and the Risen Jesus (John 20:19-28) is not really a story about believing in the fact of the resurrection but a story about believing that someone could be wounded and also resurrected at the same time! That is quite a different message and still desperately needed.

“Put your finger here,” Jesus says to Thomas (John 20:27). Like Christ, we are all indeed wounded and resurrected at the same time. In fact, this might be the primary pastoral message of the Gospel. Great love and great suffering (both healing and woundedness) are the universal, always available paths of transformation because they are the only things strong enough to take away the ego's protections and pretensions. Great love and great suffering bring us back to God; this is how Jesus himself walked humanity back to God. It is not just a path of resurrection rewards but a path that now includes death and woundedness. (Richard Rohr)

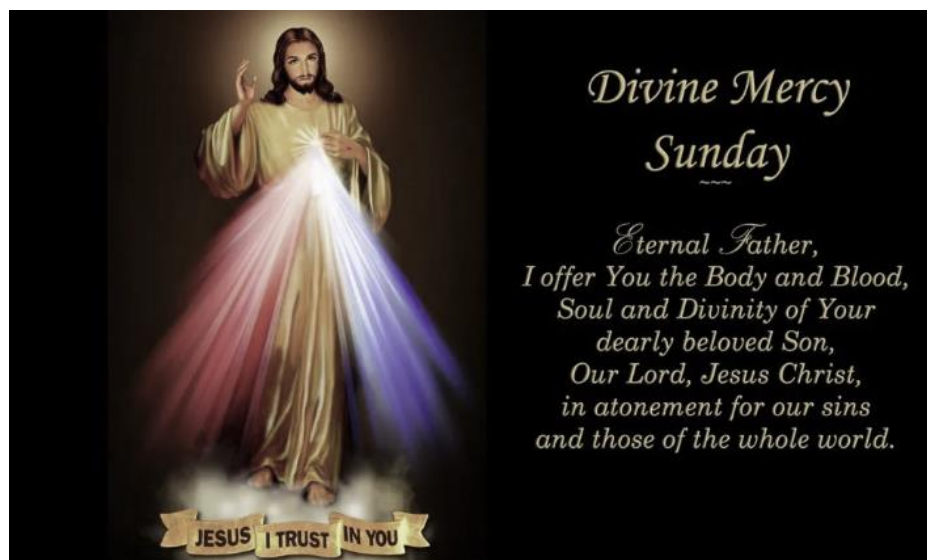
When we walk within our own spiritual journeys, God uses woundedness and resurrection as the means to transformation. This is evident when Thomas put his hands in Jesus scars. We too are scarred and wounded yet are being transformed through Christ's resurrection. Part of dying is going through a season of deconstruction where what we believed to be true about life comes into question. Like Thomas, we have our doubts whether or not we truly are going to be transformed. As we go through what Thomas Merton calls the cloud of unknowing, we hold to our beliefs loosely, and allow Jesus to come and bring new life to us. This is where transformation happens.

## Divine Mercy Sunday

St. Faustina's canonisation was one of the highlights of his papacy. He died on the vigil of, and was canonised on, the Feast of Mercy. Pope John Paul II was the “spark” Jesus spoke about with St. Faustina. (Diary 1732). The Divine Mercy Devotion continues in a remarkable way through Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis till our days.

*The Lord took his wounds with him to eternity. He is a wounded God; He let himself be injured through his love for us. His wounds are a sign that he understands and allows himself to be wounded out of love for us. These wounds of his: how tangible they are to us in the history of our time! Indeed, time and again, he allows himself to be wounded for our sake. What certainty of his mercy, what consolation do his wounds mean for us! ... And what a duty they are for us, the duty to allow ourselves in turn to be wounded for him!*

*Indeed, mercy is the central nucleus of the Gospel message; it is the very name of God, the Face with which he revealed himself in the Old Covenant and fully in Jesus Christ, the incarnation of creative and redemptive Love. May this merciful love also shine on the face of the Church and show itself through the sacraments, in particular that of Reconciliation, and in works of charity, both communitarian and individual. May all that the Church says and does manifest the mercy God feels for man, and therefore for us. When the Church has to recall an unrecognized truth or a betrayed good, she always does so impelled by merciful love, so that men and women may have life and have it abundantly (cf. Jn 10:10). From Divine Mercy, which brings peace to hearts, genuine peace flows into the world, peace between different peoples, cultures and religions. ~ Pope Benedict XVI*



## SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

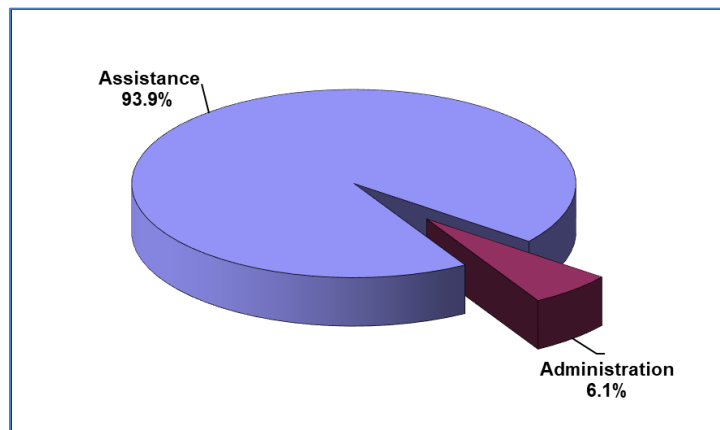
A very sincere thank you for your prayers and financial support, from clients and volunteers of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Your spiritual and financial contributions during the past year have helped the Society in Lethbridge continue its assistance to the underprivileged and those in need.

The Society's mission is to minister to the homeless and the economically disadvantaged through home visits, assistance with shelter, delivery of donated furniture, and help with transportation costs. The Society provides compassion and support to individuals in need, regardless of race, origin, religion or gender, assisting underprivileged in their struggle against poverty.

The primary source of funds for the Society's ongoing work comes from the donations of individuals, organizations, parishes and schools. This year the Society also received a portion of the Food Security Grant, which was applied for by the Western Regional Council. Thank you to all who donated for your support this year.

Continuing with the mission of the Society, in 2023, a total of \$55,159 was paid (an increase of 4% over 2022 - \$53,148) for help toward rent (29%), utilities (40%), food assistance (25%) and other support (6% - delivery of donated furniture, emergency shelter, transportation and medical needs, etc.). The Society operated in a deficit position for most the year, however due to the grant contribution received and your generous donations, the overall year resulted in a surplus. Collections remained consistent with 2022 (but still down about 30% compared to pre-pandemic levels). The emergency assistance provided this year helped more than 500 individuals and families in the Lethbridge area and the grant funding was used to help an additional 200 individuals, including children. The Society continues to be an important and much needed service in the community, as we are continually called upon by many people each year.

Activities of the Society are carried out entirely by volunteers. Administration such as telephone for clients to contact us, stationery and postage for mailing tax receipts and tax returns, cheque printing and bank charges, and contributions to other St. Vincent de Paul Societies account for approximately 6% of total expenses.



Donations to the Society may be left in the collection baskets, e-transferred to [ssvpleth@gmail.com](mailto:ssvpleth@gmail.com) (please include full address in message for tax receipt purposes), or online through CanadaHelps.org (SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL – LETHBRIDGE). Tax receipts will be issued at year end. Donations through CanadaHelps will receive a receipt directly from CanadaHelps.

We ask for your continued prayers to carry on our work. Thank you for your support.

*Society of St. Vincent de Paul*

**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is in need of volunteers to serve the needy in our city. There are many opportunities available to assist individuals and families. Please consider lending your time to help the less fortunate. For more information please call 403-328-5493. Thank you.**