

Our Prayers

Let us pray for refugees who are seeking new homes that our hearts will be open to their story, we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for those who lack secure food supply or clean drinking water that we will help them meet these basic needs, we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for renewed hearts in this Lenten season that we will recognize God in the faces of all we meet, we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for all Christians as we prepare for Easter that we will see each other as brothers and sisters, we pray to the Lord

Let us pray for those who have died a Martyr's death that they will receive the crown of glory, we pray to the Lord



Next gathering: Monday, April 15 at 10:15

“Flourishing... not just maintaining the Faith”

Monday, March 18, 2024

A warm welcome to everybody!

ENLARGE THE TENT

“Removing our sandals before
the Sacred Ground of the Other”

The Art of Accompaniment Part Two with Fr. Tim Boyle.
Sessions will be livestreamed at 10:30 am, followed by
Mass at 11:15 am. Third Monday of the month.

ST. MARTHA'S, LETHBRIDGE
● LIVE AT STMARTHASPARISH.CA

**MONDAY,
18 MARCH AT
10:30 AM**

**“Mother Maria of Russia...
on uniting the Cross
and the Sword”**

**MONDAY,
15 APRIL AT
10:30 AM**

**“Flourishing... not just
maintaining the Faith”**



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“Mother Maria of Russia .. on uniting the Cross and the Sword”

Checking in...

What would qualify someone to be named a saint?

Are their individuals that you think should be named as saint?

What witness do we need today?



Elisabeth Pilenko born into devout Orthodox Christians in 1891. At age 14 she lost her faith when her father died. As social activist she and husband Daniel and their two fled to Paris. She joined student Christian movement and they cared for Russian refugees. Her daughter's death in 1929 caused her to deepen her faith.

Mother Maria was herself arrested along with her

son. She died in Holy Saturday in Ravensbrück extermination camp even as the Russian Army could be heard in the distance.

Her life is a passionate objection to any form of Christianity that seeks Christ chiefly inside church buildings.

“I am your message Lord. Throw me like a blazing torch into the night that all May see and understand what it means to be a disciple.”



Mother Maria criticized our culture for being highly individualistic and even our spiritual journey is self centered. Mother Maria sees the Christian life as a call to live the two great commandments.

The commandment to Love of Neighbor properly understood can never be a chosen policy of personal behavior.

Her solution is to complement the imitation of Christ with the imitation of Mary. This sharing in another person's Golgotha is what we are committed to as members of Christ body. Through Mary the church is pierced by the sufferings of the body of Christ...of each member of his body. To be in the body of Christ is to adopt all others and in so doing we adopt the whole body of Christ for itself.

The haunting icon of the mother of God holding a crucified Christ child gives us an insight into this experience of love.

We only see true person of other when we are kenotically emptied into body of Christ and find ourselves in a solidarity we never chose.

Our given entanglement in the mutuality of Christ's body is like Mary's entanglement in the suffering of her son the sword piercing her soul.

Mother Maria was certain that there was no other path to heaven than participating in God's mercy. “The way to God lies through love of people. At the Last Judgment I shall not be asked whether I was successful in my ascetic exercises, nor how many bows and prostrations I made. Instead I shall be asked, Did I feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the prisoners. That is all I shall be asked. About every poor, hungry and imprisoned person the Savior says ‘I’: ‘I was hungry and thirsty, I was sick and in prison.’ To think that he puts an equal sign between himself and anyone in need... I always knew it, but now it has somehow penetrated to my sinews. It fills me with awe.” We can sum up Mother Maria's credo in just a few words: “Each person is the very icon of God incarnate in the world.”