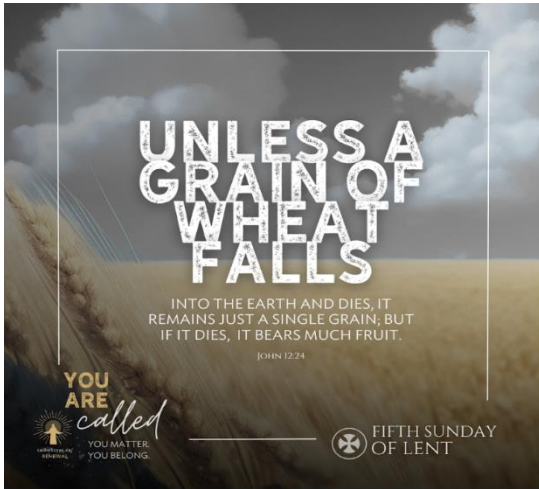




# St. Martha's Parish


5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent - March 17<sup>th</sup> 2024

Gospel Reflection - John 12:20-33



*We would like to see Jesus:* a request coming from the eternal soul of the man who seeks, a wish I feel it's mine. Jesus' response requires eyes that can look in depth: if you want to understand, look at the grain of wheat, look at the cross, the ultimate synthesis of the Gospel. If the grain of wheat does not die it remains just a grain of wheat, if it dies it produces a lot of fruit. That "if it dies" weighs on the heart and overshadows everything else. But if you observe, you see that the grain is actually a treasure chest of life that slowly opens, a small green miracle erupting. What happens in the earth is not the death of the seed but a tireless and wonderful work, a continuous and uninterrupted donation, a true gift of itself: the earth gives the grain its mineral elements, the grain offers the germ itself in nourishment. And when the grain has given

everything, the germ grows around with its roots hungry for life, grows upwards with the fragile and very powerful tip of its little leaves. Then the grain dies, yes, but in the sense that life is not taken away from it but transformed into a more evolved and powerful form of life. "What the caterpillar calls the end of the world everyone else calls a butterfly, he no longer crawls, he flies; he dies to his former life to continue living in a higher form". The main verb that governs the parable of the seed is "produces fruit". The glory of God is not dying but fruitfulness, and the trigger is the gift of self. The keystone that holds the world, from the grain to Christ, is not the victory of the strongest but the gift. The second icon offered by Jesus is the cross, the purest and highest image that God gave of Himself. To know who God is, I only have to kneel in front of the Cross (Karl Rahner). God enters death because every child of Him goes there. But from death He comes out as a germ from the earth, an indestructible form of life, and He drags us out, up, with Him. "The Cross was not given to us to understand but to cling to it" (Bonhoeffer): attracted by something that I do not understand, but which seduces and reassures me, I cling to His Cross, I walk with Him, eternally dying in His brothers, eternally resurgent. On the cross the divine art of loving offers itself to cosmic contemplation, it gives itself to the fruitfulness of lives.



YOU ARE CALLED.  
YOU MATTER.  
YOU BELONG.

**Communion under both species**

**We hope to start at the Holy Thursday Mass this year but to do so we need more Extraordinary Ministers of Communion. We will have training sessions for new and old ministers**

## 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 change on 18 March: Mass is at 11:00am**

**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:

Maureen Adamkewicz, Nico Escobar, Juliana Barrajon, 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, Ellsworth Braun, 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 March 18:** “*Mother Maria of Russia... on uniting the Cross and the Sword*”

### 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

### Bereavement Group

Bereavement Group will meet on **Tuesday, March 26, 1pm to 3pm**. Coffee/snacks, speakers, videos are part of the program. For more info, or to register for the upcoming meeting, contact the office, 4033818891 or [ruth.mcmillan55@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.mcmillan55@gmail.com)

### Lent Challenge

Parishioners are invited to participate in the **FUN Lent Challenge**; pick up a challenge from the poster in the gathering space; choose one or more challenges, do it and celebrate by entering the draw. For info contact Joanne: 587 257 3305

### Mass intentions

Mon 18 Mar	11:00 am	Souls in Purgatory
Tue 19 Mar	7:00 pm	Ches Skinner +
Wed 20 Mar	9:00 am	Souls in Purgatory
Seasons	1:30 pm	John McDougall +
Thu 21 Mar	9:00 am	Lindsey & Kevin De Kreek +
Fri 22 Mar	9:00 am	Rowan Beckie +
Sat 23 Mar	5:00 pm	Barbara Spiess +
Sun 24 Mar	9:00 am	Ivan Rajcic +

### 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!

### Lenten Penitential Services

St. Joseph’s, **Vauxhall: Wednesday, March 20 at 7pm**  
**St. Martha’s Thursday, March 21 at 7pm**  
**Assumption on Saturday, March 23 at 10:00am**

### Parish Lent Retreat

Brother Dan Gurnick, OFM, is coming to preach on Saturday, **16 March** and on Sunday, **17 March**. On **Sunday, at 3pm** he will also speak about *How the Church sees addictions*; adoration will follow.

### FORMED

Quality Catholic media for everyone: [formed.org](http://formed.org). Enter our Parish Code to register: 3FT2YD

### 40 Hours Devotion for Vocations

As part of the Diocesan Renewal, the Office of Vocations is excited to launch the 40 Hours Devotion for Vocations in the Diocese of Calgary - catholicyc.ca/40hours. 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 will be 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.

### 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)

**Save the dates: on March 18th** there will be an open gym night hosted by NET for all youth in grades 6-12. This will be from 6:30-8:00pm at Children of St. Martha's school.

There will be a family skate **on Saturday March 23rd from 7:15 - 8:15 at Civic ice arena**. Hot chocolate and treats to follow.

**April 6th** - The youth will be volunteering at the Soup Kitchen. If you would like to help prepare and serve dinner **between 4:00pm - 8:00pm**, please contact Nicole at 403-892-2010

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

**Mar 20:** *ADHD - Understanding the Diagnosis and Treatment Strategies* -Ft. Aleigha from True Balance Counselling

**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

### "The Way to the Father"

God Squad Canada is hosting its 27th annual Men's Conference called "The Way to the Father" on **March 22-23, at Ascension Catholic Parish in Calgary**. Jon Leonetti along with Brother Simon of the Seeds of the Word Community in Calgary will be inspiring and ultimately bringing us into a deeper relationship with God. For info: [www.godsquad.ca](http://www.godsquad.ca)

### K of C Food Drive for the Interfaith Food Bank

St Martha's Knights are asking your help to fill the shelves with food by making a cash donation rather than a food donation. This will allow the food bank to purchase \$3.00 or more of the food they most need for every \$1.00 you so generously give. The dates of the drive will be at the masses of **March 16 and 17**. You can give cheque, E-Transfer, cash, or grocery cards. Make cheques payable to St Martha's Knights of Columbus |E-Transfers to [knightscards9280@gmail.com](mailto:knightscards9280@gmail.com) | Fill in the form with: Reason for transfer: Food Bank Name:\_\_\_ -Address:\_\_\_ - Phone number:\_\_\_ An income tax receipt for donations over \$20 will be sent out by the Interfaith Food Bank.

### Tax Receipts

Our bookkeeper sent out tax receipts by email for those who are registered in the parish with an email address. The remaining receipts have been mailed out.

### STM Picture Directory

Mark your calendar: our parish is scheduled to have a Picture Directory on **May 2, 3 and 4**. Everybody is invited, because "we belong, we matter, we are called"!

### 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://www.stmarthasparish.ca). Contact Zachary Hampton, Sacraments Coordinator, for more information: [sacraments@stmarthasparish.ca](mailto:sacraments@stmarthasparish.ca)

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):** RCIA started on Tuesday, October 10, following the 7 PM Mass. 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) | **rites** for RCIA Candidates are on Lenten Sundays at 11 am Mass

**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: [catholicyc.ca/marriage\\_prep](http://catholicyc.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.

## Lent is about seeing with new eyes

God is the ultimate depth of everything that exists, Paul Tillich wrote, but we must learn to see. Jesus repeatedly asked his disciples, **What do you see? For the reign of God is here and now.** To the unbelievers he lamented, "It is because you say you see that your blindness remains" (John 9:41).

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, the famous Jesuit scientist, was also a strong advocate of vision. "To see and to make others see" was the heart of his masterpiece, *The Human Phenomenon*. "The whole of life lies in that verb," he said. **What kind of seeing is it that reveals not only the surfaces of things, but also their within?** Here is the question that distinguishes physical sight from spiritual sight, as Antoine de Saint-Éxupéry wrote in *The Little Prince*: "It is only with the heart that one sees rightly, what is essential is invisible to the physical eye."

**Gospel vision calls us to see the incredible:** this whole, crazy and chaotic world is God-filled. **The Christian life is learning to see what is already present and to unite with what one sees; this is the sacramental life.** We are invited to see the invisible in the visible, to experience, notice, accept and celebrate every miracle of life, whether a tiny twig, a small flower, or a burly human, because everything is bursting with divine life. All of creation is pregnant with the infinite love of God; God is forever loving the world with all that God is. God is dynamically engaged in every aspect of physical life, from the beginning, drawing all through love into the fullness of being.

Jesus' resurrection is a statement about how reality works: always moving toward resurrection. As the Catholic funeral preface says, "Life is not ended but merely changed." This is the divine mystery of transformation, which is entirely evident in the physical universe. **This is the good news of the Easter message. God is not dead or absent or retired; God is active and alive, here and now.** God is doing new things and we are invited into this dance of ever-flowing life.

If we are to speak of miracles, the most miraculous thing of all is that God uses the very thing that would normally destroy you—the tragic, the sorrowful, the painful, the unjust—to transform and enlighten you.

This is a human transformation to a much higher level of love and consciousness. You have been plucked from the flames of any would-be death to the soul, and you have become a very different kind of human being in this world. **Jesus is indeed saving the world.**— Ilia Delio, R. Rohr



## Holy Week 2024

28 March, Holy Thursday:  
Mass at 7:00 pm followed by adoration



29 March, Good Friday:  
Service at 3:00 pm



30 March, Easter Vigil:  
Mass at 8:00 pm



31 March, Easter:  
Mass at 9:00 am and 11:00 am



TOGETHER  
in ACTION | 2024

Our parish GOAL:  
**\$ 42,034**

"God will fully satisfy every need of yours  
according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

### Every Friday in Lent

Mass at 9:00 a.m.  
Eucharistic Adoration will begin after Mass,  
to end with Benediction at 3:00 p.m.  
Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m.  
Stations of the Cross will begin at 7:00 pm.

***Each of us faces the question of how we are going to allow the grain of our life to die, and what the harvest might be if we do so. But if we want to follow Christ, we cannot avoid this death: a dying to ourselves, and a giving of ourselves in God's service.***