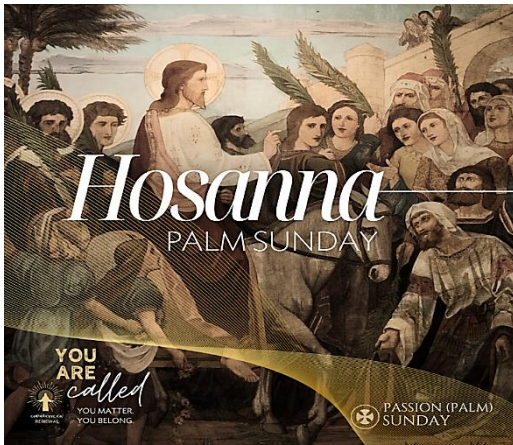




# St. Martha's Parish

Palm Sunday of Lent - March 24<sup>th</sup> 2024

Gospel Reflection - Mark 14:1-15:47



Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is not just a historical event, but a parable in action. God woos His city (faith is my response to God's wooing): He comes like a beggar King, so poor that He does not own even the poorest beast of burden. A humble Powerful One, who does not impose Himself, but proposes Himself; like an unarmed lover. *Blessed is He who comes.* It is extraordinary to be able to say: God comes. In this country, on these streets, in my house that smells of bread and hugs, God still comes, traveler of millennia and of hearts. He's getting closer, he's at the door. Holy Week unfolds, one by one, the days of our destiny; they come towards us slowly, each generous with signs, symbols, light. In this week, the rhythm of the liturgical year slows down, we can follow Jesus

day by day, almost hour by hour. The holiest thing we can do is to be with Him: "men and women go to God in their suffering, cry for help, ask for bread and comfort. That's what everyone does, everyone. Christians, on the other hand, remain close to God in His suffering" (Bonhoeffer). They are close to a God who on the cross is no longer the "omnipotent" of our infantile desires, the lifesaver in our shipwrecks, but is the All-embracing, the All-loving who is shipwrecked in the perfect storm of love for us. These are days to be close to God in His suffering: the passion of Christ is still consumed, is alive in the infinite crosses of the world, where we can stand next to the crucifixes of history; these are the days to let ourselves be wounded by their wounds, to feel pain for the pain of earth, of God, of man, to suffer and bring comfort. The cross is disorientating, but if I persist in remaining next to it like the women, looking at it like the centurion, an expert in death, I certainly won't understand everything, but I'll get one thing: that there, in that death, is the first cry of a new world. What did the centurion see to make him, a pagan, pronounce the first Christian act of faith: "He was the Son of God"? He saw a God who loves to death. Christian faith is based on the most beautiful thing in the world: a perfect act of love. The centurion saw the world turned upside down: God who gives life even to those who give Him death; whose power is to serve rather than enslave; overcome violence not with more violence, but by taking it upon Himself. The cross is the purest, highest, most beautiful image that God has given of Himself. These are the days that reveal it: "to know who God is, I only have to kneel at the foot of the Cross" (K. Rahner).

## Holy Week

We're called to hope in the God who took the single greatest evil ever perpetrated—the Crucifixion of Our Lord—and brought out of it the single greatest good the world has ever known: the redemption of humanity. If God can bring goodness and glory and beauty and life out of that kind of evil, He most certainly can bring goodness and glory and beauty and life out of the evil we presently face. Hope is what will sustain us in the days yet to come.

## Contact Information

403-381-8891 • office@stmarthasparish.ca

Office closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday

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

**No Mass from Mon. April 1<sup>st</sup> to Fri. April 5<sup>th</sup>**

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:

Katie Lindsay, 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 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

### Bereavement Group

Bereavement Group will meet on **Tuesday, March 26, 11:00am to 12:30pm**. Coffee/snacks, speakers, videos are part of the program. For more info, or to register for the upcoming meeting contact the office or email [ruth.mcmillan55@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.mcmillan55@gmail.com)

### 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”!

### Mass intentions

Mon 25 Mar	9:00 am	Walter Leeb +
Tue 26 Mar	7:00 pm	Myra Poulin
Wed 27 Mar	9:00 am	Gordon Gruber +
Sat 30 Mar	5:00 pm	Teresita Vincencio de Jesus+
Sun 31 Mar	11:00 am	Theresa VandenDungen +

### 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.**

### 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.

### 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!

### 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.

### University student looking for a room in a Catholic family

Catholic lady, University student, is looking to rent a room in a Catholic family -starting Apr 20. Call Moncy (587) 370 2060

## 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 - [catholiccyc.ca/40hours](http://catholiccyc.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 [lethbridge@netcanada.ca](mailto:lethbridge@netcanada.ca)

**Mark your calendar on 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

## 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

# Palm Sunday

## WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY BLESSED PALMS?

After leaving church on Sunday, you may be asking yourself, "What should I do with these palms?" Whatever you do, don't throw them away! According to the Code of Canon Law, blessed items are not to be discarded in a trash can, but treated with respect (cf. #1171). At Mass these palm branches were set apart by a blessing from the priest and made into a "sacramental," an object that is meant to draw us closer to the celebration of the seven sacraments. Throwing them in the trash ignores their sacred purpose and treats them like any other object we no longer need. If do not wish to keep them, please return them to the basket of used palms in the gathering space. These palms will be burned to create ashes for Ash Wednesday next year.

ST. MARTHA'S PARISH

## Ringing of Bells

### HOLY THURSDAY & EASTER VIGIL

Parishioners are invited to bring bells to ring during the Gloria on Holy Thursday. While the hymn is sung, the bells are reverently rung; when it is finished, they remain silent until the Gloria in Excelsis of the Easter Vigil, when you can ring them again.

St. Martha's Parish



## 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)

Let's pray for our **Catechumens:** David Schoenewolf, Connor Shaw, Leslie Stitt and **Candidates:** Viviana Lártiga, Robert Knox, Sarah Odhuno who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism / Confirmation on Easter Vigil.

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



## Ash on the head and water on the feet

This a path, apparently, is just about two metres long. But, in truth, it is a lot longer and more tiring. Because it's all about starting from your head and getting at the feet of others. The forty days from Ash Wednesday till now are not enough to cover this. It takes a whole lifetime, and the Lenten season is meant to be the reduction in scale of it.

**Repentance and service.** They are the two great sermons that the Church entrusts to ash and water, rather than to words. There is no believer who is not seduced by the charm of these two sermons. The others, those made from the pulpits, perhaps are forgotten immediately. These, however, are not: because they are expressed with symbols, which speak a "long-life language". It is difficult, for example, to escape the impact of that ash. Although very light, it falls on the head with the violence of hail. And it transforms into an authentic hammering that call to the only thing that matters: "Repent and believe in the Gospel." It's a shame that not everyone knows the rubric of the Missal, according to which the ashes must be obtained from olive branches blessed on the previous Palm Sunday. Otherwise, if the people knew it, the allusions to the commitment to peace, to the welcoming of Christ, to the recognition of His unique lordship, to hope for a definitive entrance into the Jerusalem of Heaven, would become a much more concrete itinerary on a path of conversion. That "shampoo of ashes", however, remains imprinted forever: well beyond the time when, among the soft hair, you'll find earthy debris on the following morning, scattered on the pillow, and this debris will make you think for a moment of the scales that have already fallen from the scabs of our sin.

Likewise, that tinkling of water in the basin remains indelible forever. It is the oldest sermon that any of us remembers. As children, we got it "heard with the eyes", full of amazement, after having elbowed among a hundred flanks, to move to the front row and spy on people's emotions up close. A sermon, that one of Holy Thursday, constructed with twelve identical sentences (twelve feet to wash): but with no monotony. Rich in tenderness, although structured on a predictable script. Devoid of rhetoric, despite the repetition of obvious actions: the offering of a foot, the lifting of a jug, the rustling of a towel, the seal of a kiss. A strange sermon. Because it is pronounced without words, kneeling in front of twelve symbols of human poverty by a man that the mind remembers kneeling only in front of consecrated hosts.

Evocative power of signs! Let us embark, then, on the Lenten journey, suspended between ashes and water. The ash burns on our heads, as if it had just come out of the crater of a volcano. To quench the heat, let's start looking for water to be poured on... other people's feet. Repentance and service. The only tracks upon which to lay the path of our return home. Ash and water. Once upon a time, primordial ingredients of laundry soap. But, above all, symbols of a complete conversion, which is supposed to finally grip us from head to toe. *T. Bello*

<p><b>28 March, Holy Thursday:</b> Mass at 7:00 pm followed by adoration</p> <p><b>29 March, Good Friday:</b> Service at 3:00 pm</p> <p><b>30 March, Easter Vigil:</b> Mass at 8:00 pm</p> <p><b>31 March, Easter:</b> Mass at 9:00 am and 11:00 am</p>	<div style="background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h1 style="margin: 0;">Paschal Triduum</h1> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">The <b>Easter Triduum</b> or <b>Holy Triduum</b> is the three-day celebration of the <b>Paschal Mystery</b>: the Passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%; background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>PASCHAL:</b> associated with the Hebrew <b>Passover</b>; referring to Jesus as the Lamb of God</p> <p><b>TRIDUUM:</b> derived from the Latin for <b>three days</b></p> <p>The Paschal mystery has two aspects: <b>by his death</b>, Christ liberates us from sin; <b>by his Resurrection</b>, he opens for us the way to a new life.</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; background-color: #f0e68c; padding: 5px;"> <p>The Paschal Triduum bridges the seasons of <b>Lent</b> to <b>Easter</b>.</p> <p>In the Sacred Triduum, the Church solemnly celebrates the greatest mysteries of our redemption, keeping by means of special celebrations the memorial of her Lord, crucified, buried, and risen.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: right;">The Roman Missal</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 30%; background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>DAY 1:</b> sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Good Friday</p> <p><b>DAY 2:</b> sundown on Good Friday to sundown on Holy Saturday</p> <p><b>DAY 3:</b> sundown on Holy Saturday to sundown on Easter Sunday</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="width: 35%; background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>HOLY THURSDAY:</b> "Jesus gives himself to us as food and, in the washing of feet, teaches us the need to serve others."</p> <p><b>GOOD FRIDAY:</b> "In the mystery of Christ's death on the cross, we contemplate that undying divine love which embraces all mankind and summons us in turn to love one another in the power of the Spirit."</p> <p><b>HOLY SATURDAY:</b> "The day of God's silence - invites us not only to solidarity with all who are abandoned and alone, but also to trust in that faithful love which turns death into life."</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 45%; background-color: #f0e68c; padding: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">YOU ARE CALLED YOU MATTER</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">belong</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center;">catholiccyc.ca/RENEWAL</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%; background-color: #f0e68c; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">"These, then, are days which speak to us <b>powerfully</b> of God's <b>love and mercy</b>."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Pope Francis</p>  </div> </div> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: right; margin-top: 5px;">SOURCE: POPE FRANCIS, GENERAL AUDIENCE, MARCH 23, 2016</p>
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