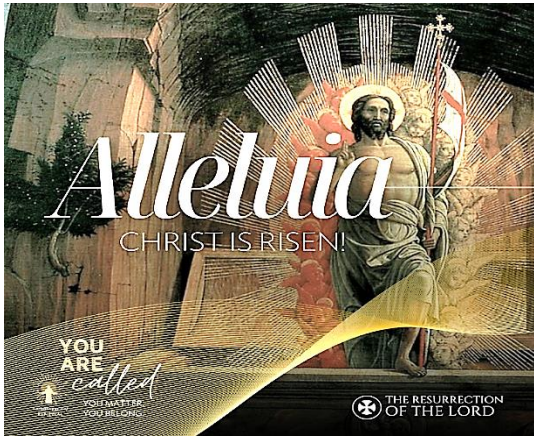




St. Martha's Parish

Easter Sunday - March 31st, 2024

Gospel Reflection - John 20:1-9



Easter is the most challenging and most beautiful event in the entire Bible. Challenging because it goes against all evidence and all logic, beautiful because life comes back to life, if I believe so. Easter does not only bring "salvation", which is pulling us out of perdition, from the waters that threaten us, but "redemption", which is much more, which is transforming weakness into strength, the curse into blessing, the cross in glory, Peter's betrayal in an act of faith, my shortcoming in new energy, the escape in a trepid race.

Mary ran to Simon and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved... Peter and John ran together. Why is everyone running on Easter morning? What was the need to run? Everything about Jesus cannot tolerate mediocrity, He deserves the

rush of love: love is always in a hurry. They run, driven by a heart in turmoil, because they are anxious for light, and life is in a hurry to roll away the stones from the opening of the heart.

The other disciple, the one Jesus loved, ran faster. John arrives before Peter, he is the first to understand the meaning of the resurrection, and to believe in it. The beloved has the "intellect of love" (Dante), the intelligence of the heart. A medieval saying states: the wise walk, the just run, only lovers fly. Those who love or are loved understand more, understand sooner, understand more deeply. He saw the sheets laid there. John entered, saw and believed. John believes because the signs are eloquent only for the heart that knows how to read them. John has a heart ready to burn the distance between Jerusalem and the garden, between the signs and their meaning, between the burial cloths placed there and the absent body.

The first sign of Easter is the empty tomb, the absent body. In human history there is a body missing from the total count of those killed, from the count of dead bodies: death's books don't add up. A body is missing from the balance of violence, its balance sheet is in the red. Easter lifts our earth, this planet of tombs, towards a new world, where evil does not win; Easter: «an aroma that brings life» (2 Cor 2,16).

Hallelujah

A simple translation of HALLELUJAH is "Praise the Lord."

Although Hallelujah is written as one word, its Hebrew original comes from two words, which have been merged into one. The first half of the word, from the verb "hillel," means to *praise*, and it is used hundreds of times in the Bible. So praise what? Praise "jah." Jah is a shortened form of the 4-letter Hebrew name for the Lord, YHWH, which is usually pronounced Yahweh.

HALLELUJAH, or Alleluia, is an Easter proclamation.

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

No Mass from Mon. April 1st to Fri. April 5th
Office closed on Easter Monday

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:

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, Ellsworth Braun, Ellis Watson, Adeline Sherman, Linda Westgeest, Peter Danielson, Raymond Sander, Most. Rev. Gerard Pettipas, Bernie Yaretz, Theresa Blackwater, Viola Mogus, Robert Dubois.

Family Egg Hunt

Catholic Parish Family and children Easter Egg Hunt at Assumption Hall, at 3pm on Easter Sunday: all are welcome! Bring your own basket or bag. 🥰🥰🥰

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*”

Mt. St. Francis Couples Weekend

Couples Weekend on **April 19-21**; to register contact Michele and Paul Grover changrover@shaw.ca or Tess and Renato Abanto: 403-615-6126 | april1686@gmail.com

Pancake breakfast

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

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 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

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.

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

Mass intentions

Sat 6 Apr	5:00 pm	Howard Tennant +
Sun 7 Apr	9:00 am	CWL

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 **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

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**. Everybody is invited, because “we belong, we matter, we are called”!

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.

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. 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.

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

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

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.beloveddaughterscyc.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

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!

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.

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 by April 12.

Thank you to St Martha's parish from the InterFaith Food Bank and the families that need the food bank to survive.

Because of your caring, compassion and generosity the food bank received \$5,000 worth of grocery cards.

As you remember that enables them to buy \$15,000 worth of the most needed food for the food bank because of the ability they have to purchase \$3 worth of food for every \$1 donated. The food bank can do this because of their ability to buy in bulk along with the support of the grocery stores and their ability shop for bargains. Now, just imagine the smiles on the faces of the families that the InterFaith food bank serve, especially the children! St Martha's knights are so proud to be a part of such a compassionate caring parish.

Grand Knight
Mark Nixon

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

First Holy Communion, Confirmation: To register; fill out registration form on our [website](#). Contact Zachary Hampton, Sacraments Coordinator, for more information: 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

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. There are also classes available at All Saints Parish, Lethbridge.

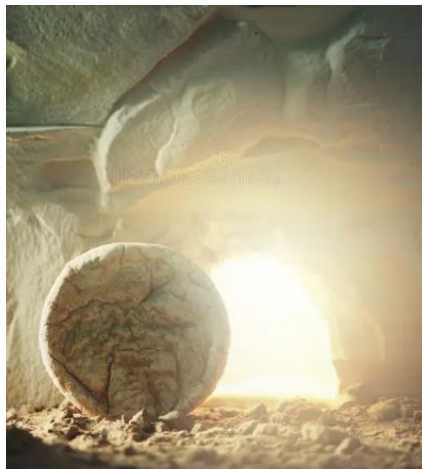
Anointing of the Sick If you have a relative who has been admitted to hospital please call the parish office.

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.

Easter, Feast of removed boulders



I wish we could free ourselves from the stones that keep us down, every day: Easter is the Feast of removed boulders; it's a celebration of an earthquake. On Easter morning the women, arriving in the garden, saw the stone removed from the tomb. Each of us has our own boulder, a huge stone placed at the opening of the soul that does not allow oxygen to filter through, which holds us in a grip of frost; which blocks every ray of light, which prevents communication with others. It is the stone of loneliness, of misery, of illness, of hatred, of the desperation of sin. We are alienated graves. Each with its own death seal. May this Easter be the rolling away of the boulder for everyone, the end of nightmares, the beginning of light, the spring of new relationships and if each of us, having emerged from the tomb, works to remove the boulder from the tomb next to us, the miracle that marked the resurrection of Christ will eventually happen again. *T. Bello*

Courage: it's Easter!
The Resurrection of Jesus Christ,
our everlasting love,
is the paradigm of our destinies.
The Resurrection.
Not destruction.
Not the end.
Not falling into nothingness.

Courage: it's Easter!
The Lord is Risen
precisely to tell us that,
for those who decide to "love",
there is no death that matters,
there is no grave that closes,
there is no sepulchral boulder
that does not roll away.

May light and hope break
the walls of our prisons.

T. Bello

