



St. Martha's Parish

3rd Sunday of Lent - March 3rd 2024

Gospel Reflection - John 2:13-25



Jesus enters the temple: and it is like entering the center of time and space, the fulcrum around which everything revolves. What Jesus will now do and say in the holiest place in Israel is of utmost importance: it affects God himself. Jesus makes a whip and drives everybody out. Tables and chairs overturned, coins spilled: this shows that the upheaval brought about by Jesus is total. They sell oxen for the rich and doves for the sacrifices of the poor. Jesus overturns everything: it's over the time to offer blood to give praise to God. As the prophets had shouted in vain: I do not drink the blood of lambs, I do not eat their flesh; I want mercy and not sacrifices (Hos 6,6). Jesus abolishes, with His, every other sacrifice; God's sacrifice to man takes the place of man's many sacrifices to God. He spilled the money: the god of money, the golden calf,

is scattered on the ground, its illusion exposed. And to those who sold doves He said: stop making my Father's house a marketplace. God has become an object of purchase and sale. The smart ones use it to gain; the devotees, to gain it. Giving and taking, selling and buying are ways that offend love. Love cannot be bought, it cannot be imposed, it cannot be pretended. Don't use the cheap law of barter with God where you give something to God so that He can give something to you. Like when we think that by going to church, performing a ritual, lighting a candle, saying that prayer, making that offering, we have fulfilled our duty, we have given and can expect some favor in return. So we are just money changers, and Jesus turns the tables on us. If we believe we are involving God in a mercantile game, we must change our mentality: God cannot be bought and He belongs to everyone. He cannot be bought even at the price of the purest coin. God is love, whoever wants to pay for Him goes against His own nature and treats Him like a prostitute. «When the prophets spoke of prostitution in the temple, they meant this cult, both pious and offensive to God» (S. Fausti): I give you prayers and offerings, you give me long life, luck and health. The House of the Father, His tent is not only the building of the temple: do not trade on religion and faith, do not trade on life, the poor, mother earth. Every body of a man and a woman is a divine temple: fragile, beautiful and infinite. And if a life is worth little, nothing is worth as much as a life. Because with a kiss God gave life His eternal breath.

Holy Mass Etiquette

Wait until the priest exits before you leave the Mass, begin talking or take out your phone – You will probably see people start to exit and get their things ready immediately following Communion, but that doesn't mean it is time to go. The correct protocol is to wait until the priest processes out of the Church and to follow after him.

catholicccc.ca/RENEWAL

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

Remember to spring ahead on 10 March!

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:

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 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

Hobby Prayer group & KofC outreach program

The Hobby Prayer group, which **meets on Mondays from 1:30 to 3:30pm** at STM, is teaming up with our KofC to support the less fortunate; we’ll be knitting/crocheting scarves, toques, blankets, mittens, while KofC will be going out in our community to help those in need. There is a **box in the gathering space** labeled “**KofC outreach**” for anyone who wishes to help by donating any of those items and/or leftover yarns that can be used in this new undertaking. THANK YOU!

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

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”!

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 4 Mar	9:00 am	Gabriel Blatanic
Tue 5 Mar	7:00 pm	Jean Pittman +
Wed 6 Mar	9:00 am	Tom Melling +
Thu 7 Mar	9:00 am	Kenneth Bailey +
Fri 8 Mar	9:00 am	Carol Paulhus +
Sat 9 Mar	5:00 pm	J. J. little Bear
Sun 10 Mar	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 **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

Embracing The Presence & the Power of the Holy Spirit

Friday, **March 08** (6:30pm) & **Saturday, March 09** (8:30am to 3:30 p.m.), St. Basil’s Catholic Church. Friday Workshop: Receiving the infusion of the Holy Spirit. Saturday Workshops: *Tongues, Prophecy, Wisdom & Knowledge, Resting in the Spirit and Intro to Healing*. Presented by Our Lady of Assumption Prayer Community. **Registration:** Email or call Ken: kfabbi@gmail.com / 403-331-8923.

Assumption Charismatic Prayer Potluck

Assumption Charismatic Prayer Group is hosting another potluck on **Wednesday March 6**. 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. Catherine’s, **Picture Butte: Wednesday, March 6 at 7 pm**
St. Peter’s, **Milk River: Thursday, March 14 at 7pm**
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

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. 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

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

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 allows the food bank to purchase \$3.00 or more of the food they most need for every \$1.00 you so 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 KofC |E-Transfers to knightscards9280@gmail.com | Fill in the form with: Reason for transfer: Food Bank Name:___ - Address:___ - Phone number:___ An income tax receipt for donations over \$15 will be sent out by the Interfaith Food Bank.

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

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 Allic 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



Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus will serve a delicious pancake breakfast on **March 3rd**, following the Sunday Masses. Everybody is invited; the food is great and it is a great opportunity to socialize as well!

Lectio Divina Workshop

Pastoral Renewal is grounded in prayer. The Seeds of the Word Community will be coming to parishes to offer a series of evenings of praying with Lectio Divina, a very effective method of prayer and formation for spiritual growth and intimacy with the Word of God. They will be at STM on **Saturday, March 9, 10:30am - 11:30am**

Tax Receipts

Our bookkeeper sent out tax receipts by email and printed them out for those who don't have a printer: they are available to be picked up in the gathering space.

Parish Lent Retreat

Brother Dan Gurnick, OFM, will come 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.

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](http://www.stmarthasparish.ca). 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 | **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: 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.

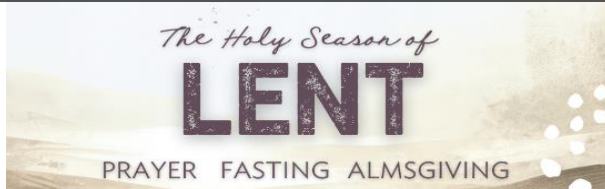
Please prayerfully discern where you are called to serve Our Lord at St. Martha's.

Lent is about cleansing the Temple of our heart

Even a superficial reading of today's passage of the Gospel reveals that Jesus fails to be impressed with the temple ritual whilst at the same time being passionate about the proper reverence for the temple as a spiritual space. The key to the passage lies in the words of the Gospel writer, "But He was speaking of the temple of His body."

When God is seen as 'outside', the sacrificial system will remain. However, when God moves inside, you are the temple and sacrifice is no longer required. The only sacrifice now, is me (Richard Rohr).

Large parts of the teaching of Jesus, such as those recorded in the Sermon on the Mount, are about "interiorizing" religion, this interior priority. The commandments are observed by inner integrity and not by mere external compliance to a rule. That is why the entire Law can be contained in the injunction to love God and neighbour, because this is a religious observance that originates in the heart. By contrast, observe any Fundamentalist expression of religion and you will see an obsession with externals, with rigor of the rules! This is not the message of Jesus. **Jesus came to challenge mere external ritualism, which issues in hypocrisy when it bears no resemblance to inner motivations and does not change the heart.** External religion will always be compulsively obsessed with Prestige, Privilege, Power, Politics, Protocol, and Precedent (P. Woods). These are the tables and scales of oppression that Jesus overturns. For Jesus, the heart is the holy of holies. The core of religion from which all thoughts, words and actions overflow. Teresa of Ávila views our soul-space as a castle. Another way to speak about this inner sphere where our truest self and God dwell is with the words of scripture. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul asks, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Corinthians 3:16). The body is often referred to as a temple of God, but our soul is also a wondrous residence. **This hidden part of us, in union with divinity, is where our abundant goodness (our God-ness) exists.** Teilhard de Chardin understood the necessity of opening the door inward to find and claim this goodness. Reflecting on his spiritual growth, Chardin observed this truth: "The deeper I descend into myself, the more I find God at the heart of my being." Cathedrals, Castles, Temples... however we describe our inner terrain, one thing is certain: **we tend to live in just a few rooms of our inner landscape.** The full person God created us to be contains more than we can imagine, but most of us dwell within only a small portion of the superb castle of ourselves. Opening the door of our heart allows us entrance to the vast treasure of who we are and to the divine presence within us. Always our truest self cries out to be known, loved, embraced, welcomed without judgment, and integrated into the way we live. **When we open the door and go inside, God is there in the temple of our soul, in the ashram of our heart, in the cathedral of our being.** Which is not to dismiss the reality of this same loving presence being fully alive in our external world. The Holy One is with us in all of life. **Our purpose for opening the door inward is to help us know and claim who we are so we can more completely join with God in expressing this love in every part of our external world.**



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.



Knights of Columbus Food Drive for the Interfaith Food Bank

Week 1

The Inter Faith Food Bank is in desperate need of food to help needy families in our city at this time. Just read the newspaper, listen to the radio or watch a new channel on TV to know the need is greater than ever. The St Martha's Knights along with our parish want to help these families. There will be a cash only food drive after the March 16 and 17 masses.

Because the Food Bank can take \$1.00 and turn it into \$3.00 worth of food that is most needed by them we are asking you to donate by cash, cheque, grocery cards or E-Transfer. If you want a tax receipt they are available for each donation over \$15.00.

Cash donations will give a **tripling effect because \$1.00 can buy up to \$3.00** in food because of the purchasing power of the interfaith food bank and besides that they can target the most needed food items.

Make cheques payable to the St Martha's Knights.

E-Transfers to knightscards9280@gmail.com

Fill in the form with.

Reason for transfer: Food Bank

Name:

Address:

Phone number:

You can start as early as today to send in an E-Transfer or if it is a weekday you can check with the office to make cash or cheque donations.

Our CWL/Knights grocery cards can be used with the added benefit that they as well help with our own parish needs.

Thank you from your Knights.