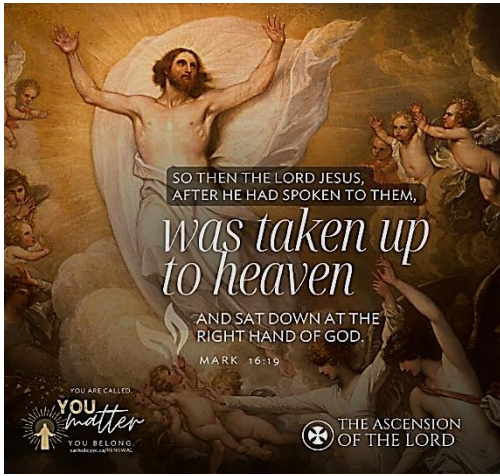




St. Martha's Parish

Ascension of the Lord - May 12th 2024

Gospel Reflection - Mark 16:15-20



Jesus is left with only eleven scared and confused men, and a small group of faithful and courageous women. They followed Him for three years on the roads of Palestine, they didn't understand much but they loved Him very much, and they all came to the last meeting on the hill. When they saw Him, they bowed down. But they doubted. Jesus puts an enormous, illogical trust in men and women who still doubt, entrusting the world and the Gospel to them. He doesn't stay with His family for a little longer, to explain better, to clarify better, but He entrusts them with the good news despite their doubts. Doubts in faith are like the poor: we will always have them with us. Jesus entrusts the Gospel and the new world, dreamed together, to the poverty of eleven illiterate fishermen and not to the intelligence of the top of the class. With total trust, He entrusts the truth to doubters, He calls

the limping to walk, the limping to travel all the roads of the world: it is the law of the mustard seed, of the pinch of salt. 'Go, perfume the lives you encounter with heaven, teach them the art of living, just as you saw me do it'. Baptize, which means immerse people in God, so that they can be imbued with heaven, impregnated with God, imbued with living water, like someone who is lowered into a river, a lake, an ocean and comes back up, to a new life. Here is the mission of the disciples: to make the world a baptism, a laboratory of immersion in God, in the God that Jesus described as love and freedom, as tenderness and justice. Each of us today receives the same mission as the apostles: to proclaim. Nothing else. He doesn't say: organize, fill key positions, do great charitable works, but simply: proclaim. And what? The Gospel, the good news, the story of God's tenderness. Not the most beautiful ideas, not the solutions to all problems, not a better politics or theology: the Gospel, the life and person of Christ, fullness of human and tenderness of the Father.

The sign of peace

What we call the "sign of peace" the early Church called the "kiss of peace." It was a custom in Mediterranean culture at the time (and still is today) to greet family and friends with a kiss. This gesture is found throughout the liturgical history of the Church and from the time of St. Gregory the Great was seen as a pre-requisite for the reception of Communion. The spiritual symbolism of the act is found in the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus said, "If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:23-24).

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 Monday, 20 May till Friday, 24 May

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:

Bill Bennett, Deborah Huneault, Katie Lindsay, Maureen Adamkewicz, Nico Escobar, Vera Schwartzkoff, 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, Ellis Watson, Adeline Sherman, Linda Westgeest, Peter Danielson, Raymond Sander, Most. Rev. Gerard Pettipas, Bernie Yaretz, Theresa Blackwater, Viola Mogus, Robert Dubois.

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.

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.**

KofC outreach program

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

Holy Spirit School Division International program

We are looking for Home Stay families interested in hosting European and Japanese students. We also are looking for a place for a 17 year old Italian boy who will be here from September until June. Please contact: homestay@holyspirit.ab.ca

Badlands Passion Play

July 6-21, 2024. There are a limited number of 2-for-\$115 coupons available. Buy now and choose your seats and performance date later. Tickets and more information at badlandsamp.com

Lethbridge People of Praise

"Getting to Know" weekend retreat: Date: **May 24-26th**, Location: St Joseph's School, 1413 23rd Ave Coaldale. Whether you are born again or new to faith in Christ, this weekend is for you.

Living Rosary at STM

CWL is hosting a living rosary on **Tuesday May 14th at 6:30 pm**. Everybody is invited to join.

Corpus Christi Procession

On Sunday, June 2nd at 2PM at St. Augustine's Catholic Church, 5009 48th Avenue, Taber | The Procession will start at the church First Prayer Stop: Clearview Lodge; Second Prayer Stop: St. Patrick's School; Third Prayer Stop: St. Mary's School | Everyone is invited to join the Procession at any point; whether it be for the whole procession, at a prayer stop, or along the route. There will be a Benediction at the church and Social following the Procession at the Church Lower Hall.

Family & Life Week (May 13 to 19)

Join Family & Life Week in the Diocese - and sign up to receive a daily prayer and quick, short, and easy-to-do daily suggested activities for each day of the week <https://tinyurl.com/bd22dss6> Who knows, maybe your family will win the mystery prize - which will be announced on May 19!

Mass intentions

Mon 13 May	9:00 am	Sylvia Patton +
Tue 14 May	7:00 pm	Maria Adelaide Tavares
Wed 15 May	9:00 am	Dolores Westgeest +
Seasons	1:30 pm	
Thu 16 May	9:00 am	Jack Whimster +
Fri 17 May	9:00 am	Czesia Jurek Wojciechowski +
Sat 18 May	5:00 pm	Jack Whimster +
Sun 19 May	9:00 am	Juliana Barrajon +

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: a NET event!

Join the NET team on Thursday, **May 16th** from 7-8pm here at STM. They will share the joy of offering our talents to God and serving in different Liturgical and Pastoral Ministries. It's an opportunity to learn more about our parish and discover the gifts the Holy Spirit gave us for God's glory.

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. 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!

Lethbridge Pro-Life Hike for Life

You are invited to join the Hike for Life on **June 8** at Henderson Lake, Kiwanis Shelter. Registration begins at 9am. It's a fun day for all the family with food and refreshments for all, games for the kids, a lot of draw prizes and a free T-shirt for all participants. Download the pledge form from www.lifelethbridge.org

Marian Family Mass

Marian Family Mass, **May 31, 2024** at the **Van Uden place in Barnwell**. Welcome at 4pm, outdoor Mass at 5pm, potluck to follow. Please text 403-894-1471 to RSVP and for exact address

Pancake breakfast

Join the Knights of Columbus on **12 May** after Mass for a delicious pancake breakfast: it's a great opportunity to socialize!

Share the Mission Award

Nominations are now welcome for the Holy Spirit Catholic School Division's "Share the Mission Award." This prestigious award recognizes community members, parents, students, and school staff who have: Offered outstanding or long term service for the benefit of our students; Accepted demanding challenges and set new standards for the rest of us to follow; Contributed, through action and deed, to the Catholic atmosphere of our schools; Demonstrated involvement and leadership in community / parish organizations; Reflected the Mission Statement of the Holy Spirit School Division in all actions. If you know of an individual or group you would like to nominate, please forward their name to the Holy Spirit School Division Office **by June 7, 2024**. The nomination form is available online on the division's website or by clicking on the following link: [Share the Mission Award Nomination Form](#)
For more information, contact Rhonda Kawa at (403) 327-9555.

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

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

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!

SFXC Events for young adults

May Events

Friday, May 17th = Adoration @ Assumption. Boardgames after

June Events

Saturday, June 1st = 5pm Mass @ Assumption. Social and Formation Session after.

Saturday, June 8th = Hike for Life -organized by Lethbridge Pro-Life

Friday, June 21st = Adoration @ Assumption. Social at Henderson after

ST. AMBROSE CWL (COALDALE) 75TH ANNIVERSARY

St. Ambrose CWL council is celebrating its 75th anniversary on **Friday, June 14th**, 2024 starting with Mass at 5 p.m. at St. Ambrose Parish; banquet at St. Joseph's School gym at 6:30 p.m. Banquet ticket \$40 each will be available in mid-April, payable by cash, cheque or send e-transfer at stambrosecwl@gmail.com. Deadline to get ticket(s): May 31, 2024. For more information, contact Lydia by email at marialydia@telus.net or call 403.345.7788.

Praise & Worship Night

Every Tuesday following the 7pm Mass: everybody is welcome!

Lethbridge Pro-Life Scholarships

ATTENTION Grade 12 and College/University Students!

You can now apply for Lethbridge & District Pro-Life Association's Scholarships, due May 24, 2024! Two **Elsie Alexander Pro-Life Scholarships** are available for grade 12 students, and two scholarships for Post-Secondary students - a **Laura Winters Stegen Essay Scholarship** and a **Henry Vandenberg Pro-Life Work/Volunteer Scholarship** for those living in the Lethbridge and District Pro-Life Association area who have proven leadership in encouraging respect for all human life. Scholarship application forms can be downloaded from our website: <https://www.lifelethbridge.org/scholarships>
In addition, SAVE THE DATE for our HIKE **FOR LIFE** Fundraiser for Lethbridge Pro-Life/Elsie's House on **June 8, 2024**; 9 AM at Henderson Lake Kiwanis Shelter. More info to come!

Let's show our support to L'Arche!!

Calling our great parishioners! St. Martha's will host L'Arche retreat for their staff (50 people) on May 25th: Fr. Tim Boyle offered to lead them, and we are asked to offer our culinary talents and provide food for the dinner: salads, casseroles, desserts are welcome! **Write down your name on the posters in the gathering space by May 12th.**

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@stmarthaparish.ca

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

Ascension, celebration of our destiny

The Ascension is a difficult celebration: how can you celebrate someone who is leaving? The Lord did not go to a distant area of the cosmos, but into the depths, not beyond the clouds but beyond the forms: if before He was together with the disciples, now He will be within them. 'I will be with you always, until the end of time'. My Christianity is the strong and intoxicating certainty that in every day, in all things, Christ is present, the ascension force of the cosmos. "The Ascension is not a cosmic geographic journey, but the navigation of the heart that leads you away from isolating yourself to the love that embraces the universe" (Benedict XVI, 10 March 2010).

In the Creed we recite "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father." That means that we believe the fact that Christ's humanity has entered the heart of God. We realize that change of perspective which is called faith, and which, instead of thinking of Christ in terms of the world, thinks of the world and of all things in terms of Christ... Yes, we say again with Romano Guardini, "we need the Resurrection and the Transfiguration, in order to truly understand what the human body is... **In reality, only Christianity has dared to place the body among the most hidden secrets of God**" - *pope Paul VI, 4 April 1970*

In Christ ascended into Heaven, the human being has entered into intimacy with God in a new and unheard-of way; man henceforth finds room in God for ever. "Heaven": this word Heaven does not indicate a place above the stars but something far more daring and sublime, it indicates Christ himself, the divine Person who welcomes humanity fully and for ever, the One in whom God and man are inseparably united forever. **Man's being in God, this is Heaven.** And we draw close to Heaven, indeed, we enter Heaven to the extent that we draw close to Jesus and enter into communion with him. For this reason today's Solemnity of the Ascension invites us to be in profound communion with the dead and Risen Jesus, invisibly present in the life of each one of us. Jesus' Ascension did not imply a temporary absence from the world but rather inaugurated the new, definitive and insuppressible form of his presence by virtue of his participation in the royal power of God. It was to be up to them, the disciples emboldened by the power of the Holy Spirit, to make his presence visible by their witness, preaching and missionary zeal. The historical character of the mystery of Christ's Resurrection and Ascension helps us to recognize and understand the transcendent condition of the Church which was not born and does not live to compensate for the absence of her Lord who has "disappeared" but on the contrary finds the reason for her existence and mission in the invisible presence of Jesus, a presence working through the power of his Spirit. In other words, **we might say that the Church does not carry out the role of preparing for the return of an "absent" Jesus, but, on the contrary, lives and works to proclaim his "glorious presence" in a historical and existential way.** Since the day of the Ascension, every Christian community has advanced on its earthly pilgrimage toward the fulfilment of the messianic promises, fed by the word of God and nourished by the Body and Blood of her Lord.
- *pope Benedict XVI, 24 May 2009*



SURVEY

YOU ARE called

A Diocesan-wide Pastoral Renewal Survey, will be administered in all parishes at the beginning of June 2024: your opinion matters!

YOU MATTER. YOU BELONG.

More info in the next bulletin

catholicyc.ca/RENEWAL

