



Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary

Announcements from the Catholic Pastoral Centre
For December 3rd, 2017 | 1st Sunday of Advent

REJOICE IN GOD'S MERCY REFLECTION - 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

It is easy to become complacent, doing things the way we have always done them and making excuses for the things we do not want to change. Life is hard and we can become rigid and obstinate out of self-defense. Yet, in the loving creative hand of God, we are to be like clay is to the potter. The sacrament of Reconciliation is a safe place to put aside the armour of our stubbornness and be strengthened by the grace of God given in Christ Jesus.

Action Item: Each evening this week identify three ways God has shown you kindness and gentleness.

Rejoice in God's Mercy! The sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at parishes throughout the Diocese of Calgary all the Wednesdays of Advent from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

ORDINATION OF DEREK REMUS TO THE TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE

Mr. Derek Remus has been called to Holy Orders and will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate by Most Rev. William T. McGrattan in his pastoral year parish, St. Bonaventure, Calgary, at 5pm on Saturday, December 23, 2017. Please pray for Derek and all the seminarians, especially those taking these next steps in their formation and preparation.

FEED THE HUNGRY CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD APPEAL

Feed the Hungry needs your help to give our 500 guests a \$10 gift card at our 4th annual Christmas Dinner! Gift cards or money (for us to shop for you) can be dropped off at St. Mary's Cathedral Hall on Sundays only or the Catholic Pastoral Center (120 17 Ave SW) during the week by December 8. For more information, contact Sartre at feedthehungry@calgarydiocese.ca

LIVING NATIVITY

Please join us for a moment of spiritual reflection in preparation for the birth of Jesus. St. James Parish in Okotoks is building the Town of Bethlehem in the field next to the church. There, you will see real people interacting in elements of that time; a bakery, a pottery booth, a wine shop, a spice shop, a wool shop, an inn, a prison, a Roman Solider hut (with real horses), a carpenter's workshop, a blacksmith, a tax collector's office, a candle shop, shepherds, and a stable with the Holy Family. There will also be choirs singing carols to add to the festivities. Food and beverages will be available for a small price, and donations will be accepted to help cover the costs of the event. Mass will be celebrated at 5:30pm.

Invite your family & friends, and follow the signs to the "Town of Bethlehem" to join us for an evening of fellowship and spirituality. Saturday, December 16th, 2017 from 4:00pm – 9:00pm at St. James Church (338060-32nd Street East, Okotoks, Alberta). For more information or questions call the Parish office at 403-938-3122.

SYNOD 2018 SURVEY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Hello young people! If you are between 16-35, Catholics or non-Catholics in the Diocese of Calgary, you are invited to offer feedback for Pope Francis through an online survey. In January 2017, Pope Francis wrote a Letter to Young People and the Vatican released a Preparatory Document with questions for reflection, and asked that dioceses throughout the world provide feedback on their local experience. We want to hear your voice: If you have one question to ask Pope Francis, what would that be? Please fill this brief survey at: <http://yellowtree.ca>

THE CARILLON: READERSHIP SURVEY

Thank you to all who have responded to our survey in the November Carillon. If you have not already completed the survey we invite you to add your input. You are encouraged to complete it either in print or online at <http://CARILLON.calgarydiocese.ca>. We highly value your thoughts and suggestions. For questions please call Carol at 403-218-5502 or email: carol.hollywood@calgarydiocese.ca.

ADVENT RETREAT WITH BISHOP EMERITUS FREDERICK HENRY

Development & Peace Diocesan Council is inviting you to a very special Advent retreat with Bishop Emeritus Henry at Mount St. Francis (41160 Retreat Rd, Cochrane, AB T4C 1Z6) on Saturday, December 9, 2017, at 9 am. Join us as we celebrate the positive peace built by women and reflect on how we can all continue to play a vital role in creating a more peaceful world, "for nothing will be impossible with God" - Luke 1:37. Cost: Free will offering. For more information call Marilou at 403-218-5519 or email marilou.legeyt@calgarydiocese.ca

THE JOY OF LOVE MARRIAGE CONFERENCE & RENEWAL OF VOWS WITH BISHOP MCGRATTAN

The Joy of Love Marriage Conference & Renewal of Vows with Bishop McGrattan will take place on December 8-9 at St. Peters Parish (541 Silvergrove Dr. NW Calgary). Dr. Edward Sri a theologian, author and well-known speaker who appears regularly on EWTN will be the conference keynote speaker. Register online at <https://st-peters.ca/> or for more information contact Kusum Di Marco at events@st-peters.ca

MARRIAGE PREPARATION "FOR BETTER & FOR EVER"

"For Better & For Ever..." Marriage Preparation, accepts all couples preparing for marriage. Due to the small group setting it allows us to focus on couples in one or more of the following circumstances: living together, previously married, beginning marriage with children, couples 45+, or those who wish to have their marriage blessed in the Church. Upcoming Dates: Jan 15 / Feb 2-3, and Feb 12 / Mar 2-3. For more dates, registration or information, contact 403-218-5505 or email lifeandfamily@calgarydiocese.ca

PROJECT RACHEL POST ABORTION WEEKEND RETREAT

The retreat offers a journey of healing and reconciliation for women and men who are suffering from a past abortion experience. Trained certified counselors are available to accompany people on a journey toward hope and inner peace. The next retreat is scheduled for February 23 - 24, 2018. For more information or to register call Project Rachel at 403-218-5506 or toll free at 1-877-597-3223. You may also e-mail info@projectrachel.ca

TRANSITIONS

Transitions is a 15-week peer support program for those recently separated or divorced. Participants will meet every week to reflect upon and discuss topics such as self-esteem, stress, anger, guilt, blame, loneliness, forgiveness, blended families and more. The next program will begin on Wednesday, February 14, 2017. For more information or to register, call 403-218-5505.

EFFECTIVE CO-PARENTING: PUTTING KIDS FIRST

'Effective Co-Parenting: Putting Kids First' is an educational 5-week program for separated and divorced parents to help raise their children through this difficult time and increase the understanding of needs of children for developing self-esteem and security. It will offer skills about managing diverse shared parenting situations and provide strategies for improving communication, resolving conflict, and managing day to day children's issues between parenting partners. Parents are encouraged to attend separately. The next program will run 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm on Wednesdays, February 21 - March 21. For more information or registration contact the Life & Family Resource Centre at 403-218-5505 or email lifeandfamily@calgarydiocese.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY - EVENING PARISH RECEPTIONIST

St. Michael Catholic Parish located in SW Calgary invites applications for a Parish Evening Receptionist. If you are ready to be the face of welcome and administrative support at St. Michael Catholic Parish to parishioners and visitors, please apply. The position, reporting to the Admin Assistant provides clerical and office support to the parish team and church ministries. This is a full time permanent position working Monday to Thursday from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Friday 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm effective January 1, 2018. For more information about this position, qualifications and application details please view the job posting at <http://saintmichael.ca/> and click on 'About'/'Employment' or the Diocesan website (Careers section).

For more information about this publication email jane.ediau@calgarydiocese.ca or contact Jane-Rose Ediau or Carol Hollywood, Library & Archives, 403-218-5510; Fax: 403-264-0526 Address: Catholic Pastoral Centre, 120 - 17 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB, T2S 2T2