



Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary

Announcements from the Catholic Pastoral Centre
For December 10th, 2017 | 2nd Sunday of Advent

REJOICE IN GOD'S MERCY REFLECTION - 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Augustine knew what sort of person he ought to be when as a youth he prayed for purity "but not yet!" Some changes happen overnight while others unfold gradually. In the confessional we can admit our failings and struggles confident that the Lord is patient and wants us to come to repentance. **Action Item:** Find an opportunity each day to extend God's patience to others and to yourself.

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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – RECEPTIONIST & ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

The Calgary Catholic Pastoral Centre invites applications for the position of Receptionist & Administrative Assistant for the Business Office. The receptionist is responsible for a wide variety of clerical and administrative office duties in support of the Catholic Pastoral Centre offices and administration. If you are interested, please apply. For more information about this position, qualifications and application details see the Diocesan website at <http://www.calgarydiocese.ca/> - and click under Careers. The employment opportunity will be posted until the competition closes on December 21, 2017 at 4:30 PM. Candidates that are short listed will be contacted for interviews by mid-January.

THE SHRINE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE ROCKIES

Our Lady of the Rockies Parish in Canmore is now designated as a Diocesan Marian Shrine. This will take effect on the day of the consecration of the new church building in the spring of 2019. To see the full message from Bishop McGrattan, please check out the front page of the diocesan website at www.CalgaryDiocese.ca, or under News/What's Happening in the Diocese. For more information, please visit the Parish/Shrine website at <http://www.RockiesShrine.com>

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S RELIC PILGRIMAGE IN CALGARY

Save the dates! The relic pilgrimage is a gift for the Church in Canada at the close of our 150th anniversary year, bringing the famous relic of St. Francis Xavier to North America for the first time in generations. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to venerate the incorrupt first class relic of one of the greatest missionaries and evangelists since St. Paul the Apostle. Public veneration of the relic will be hosted on January 21, 2018 at Sacred Heart Church, Calgary, and on January 22, 2018 at St. Michael's Church, Calgary. For more information about the relic and detailed schedule, visit: <https://cco.ca/relic/>

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 5:30 pm. Invite your family & friends, and follow the signs to the "Town of Bethlehem" to join us for an evening of fellowship and spirituality. Save the date: Saturday, December 16, 2017 from 4 to 9 pm at St. James Church (338060-32nd Street East, Okotoks, Alberta). For more information, please call the Parish office at 403-938-3122.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Diocesan Office of Religious Education invites you to a Saturday Morning Workshop on the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd on January 13th from 9 AM to Noon at Canadian Martyrs Parish, Calgary. Dorothy Burns, former Director of Religious Education for Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools in Okotoks and Paula Sabatini, Catechist for the Good Shepherd Catechesis at Canadian Martyrs Parish will break open this amazing pedagogical method of teaching our children the Faith, which was created by Montessori Educator Gianna Gobi. The morning will also include an opportunity to spend time in the "Atrium", a sacred space created for young children to learn about their faith in a very tactile and experiential way. To Register call Alicia at 403-218-5501 or email: alicia.zubot@calgarydiocese.ca

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

It's our fifth birthday! Coldest Night of the Year - Calgary will turn five this February 24, 2018. We'd love to have you celebrate with us by walking or volunteering in support of Feed the Hungry (a Diocesan program) and our friends KAIROS Calgary as they work to pay down the mortgage on Bankview Apartments (affordable housing). We'll be starting from Eau Claire Market again this year, offering 2, 5 and 10 km routes so the event is accessible for all. For more information, please visit www.cnoy.org/calgary or connect with Samantha at 403-218-5531 or samantha.jones@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@projectrachelsa.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, 2018. For more information or to register, please contact Alida at 403-218-5505 or email lifeandfamily@calgarydiocese.ca

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 to 9 pm on Wednesdays, February 21 - March 21, 2018. For more information or registration Alida at 403-218-5505 or email lifeandfamily@calgarydiocese.ca

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.

YEAR END GIVING

If you are planning on making a gift to the Diocese before the end of the year, please note that all gifts must be received or post marked by December 31, 2017 in order to receive a charitable tax receipt for 2017 tax returns. For more information, please visit www.CalgaryDiocese.ca - front page banner, or under News/What's Happening in the Diocese. Thank you for your generous support over the past year.