

Office Hours
Fr. Millan Sajonas
Director of Adult Faith Formation
Wednesday to Friday
9:00 am-12:00 noon
Contact Number
306-763-5677
Email: bmjs1981@gmail.com
adultfaith@padiocese.ca

Family Circles - Faith, Prayer, Life & Charity

The Adult Faith Formation Commission is organizing a diocesan wide advancement of family faith formation. Family Circles Program is a Roman Catholic based faith catechesis exploring the fundamentals of Catholicism and promotion of devotions. It aims to connect families through prayers and family time activities. It also endeavors to unite families to concretize belief through charitable outreach.

Families interested to join or to know more about this initiative, please contact the Adult Faith Formation Commission or email bmjs1981@gmail.com or call 306-763-5677.

Suggested Materials:

- (1) *On Eagle's Wings: A Journey through Illness toward Healing* (book) by Fr. Michael Joncas;
- (2) *Holy Wind, Holy Fire: Finding Your Vibrant Spirit through Scripture* (book) by Sr Pamela Smith, SS.C.M.;
- (3) *Prayer Primer: Igniting a Fire Within* (book) by Fr. Thomas Dubay S.M.;
- (4) *Paul, Apostle of Christ* (DVD) by Andrew Hyatt.

For more resources: padiocese.sk.ca or bmjsajonas.com



Scripture Meditation

John 8:1-11: Go, and Do not Sin Any More.

Luke 19:28-40: Peace in Heaven and Glory in the Highest.

Luke 24:1-12: He is not here but He has been Raised.

John 20:19-31: Receive the Holy Spirit.

Next issue's contents:

John 14:23-29: The Holy Spirit, the Advocate; Getting to know a patron saint of our diocese; Bible Study, Resources for faith formation, and much more...

Editors:

Sr. Mariette Bilodeau (SK, Canada), Matthew Allen Newland, PhD (QC, Canada),
Fr. Millan Sajonas (SK, Canada), and Very Reverend Maurice Fiolleau (Vicar General).

ADULT FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION DIOCESE OF PRINCE ALBERT

IMDVS April 2019

Greetings to all!

The Lenten season has helped us journey toward the great days of Holy Week, a sacred time for all Christians. The events of these special days help us to understand how awesome our God is.

The week begins with Jesus being led into Jerusalem sitting on a donkey as the King of the Jews. These same people a few days later will cry out, "Crucify him" and Jesus dies on the cross for what he stood for, for us. That was LOVE.

The Church during this season invites us to help the poor locally and abroad. It invites us to experience a change of heart. A challenge for all! So, as we enter Holy Week, let us experience this love of God again. Let us realize the immensity of His gift and how we are to express it to one another.

Celebrating the washing of the feet opens our eyes to the fact that love is expressed in ordinary actions. Love can grow if it is shared, like in the breaking of the Bread, and sharing in the Cup. Love is a choice that one must make, respond to, and follow through, as it is unconditional. There are no limits to how far we must go to express it. This total commitment asks a death to self, and to rise again in new life.

"Peace be with you" is what Jesus said when he appeared in his new life. "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (Jn 20:21) This mission has become ours through the gift of the Spirit. Let us walk forth together, for He has risen. Alleluia!

Most Rev. Albert Thévenot, M. Afr.
Bishop of Prince Albert

John 20:19-31: Jesus' Appearances to His Disciples

by Fr. Bernabe Millan Sajonas

After the suffering and death of Our Lord, the disciples are devastated and confused. How could Jesus die? He performed great signs and even raised the dead to life. Yet, Jesus showed neither resistance nor did he save himself from his persecutors. Willingly, he endured his suffering, embraced the cross, and stretched out his hands to be crucified. Jesus' death reveals the ultimate love of God for all in profound humility. Jesus, truly God and truly human, subjected himself to the consequence of sin, which is death, even though he himself was sinless. God transforms His son's death into a life-giving event, an eternal source of life in order to conquer sin and death. Jesus breaks down the chains of sin and death of humanity through His death and resurrection.

Hearing the news of the empty tomb and that Jesus is alive, hope is rekindled in the hearts of the disciples. They gather pondering the turn of the events in fear. However, hope fills their hearts as Jesus appears to them. With the Lord's greeting of peace, their fear turns into joy. Jesus strengthens them and conquers their fear and confusion. He gives them a great gift, the Holy Spirit. But with this gift, He gives them the responsibility to be instruments of His forgiveness.

The appearances of Jesus aim to strengthen His disciples after seeing Him suffer and die in a humiliating way. It is an affirmation that their faith in Jesus is not in vain. Having seen His glorified body, bearing the marks of His crucifixion, it inspires the apostles to see their Teacher and Lord, the Conqueror of death. They have seen him giving life to Lazarus, so death has no power over the Lord. Jesus is Life Himself.

Nevertheless, like Thomas, who was not there at the first appearance of Jesus to the disciples, we find the resurrection event far removed from our day-to-day circumstances. It happened a long time ago. We did not live at the time of the early Christians. We might have no experience of any supernatural events like the Lord's manifesting Himself in His glorified body. Like Thomas, we might want to touch the wounds of Our Lord in order to believe.

How do we reconcile the event of the Lord's resurrection with our present reality? We are fortunate that we have Scripture, and the experiences of men and women throughout ages who have given witness to the power of Christ. However, how do we reinforce our faith in the risen Lord? Perhaps, the answer is following the example of Thoma: by simply being present. It is to be present in the moment and keeping alive the faith in the Lord. (Continued in page 3)

(Continued from page 2) It was only when Thomas stayed with the apostles, that he too experienced the Lord's presence. Thus, we implore the grace of the Lord, who may decide to reveal Himself. Being with others, sharing with our loved ones, especially our brothers and sisters in need, are the instances of the Lord revealing Himself to us.

The resurrection of Christ is the center of our faith. It is our mission to proclaim this message to all. Let us remember that by being witnesses of the Lord in words, and through deeds of charity, we can make Christ alive and present to others.

Reflection Questions:

1. What do you believe about Jesus?
2. What are the teachings of the Catholic Church about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ?
3. Are there instances that you have doubted the power of God? How did you reconcile your difficult experience with your faith in God?
4. How do you give witness to the Resurrected Christ?
5. What is the greatest witness of the love of God you have ever heard, seen, or experienced? How does this experience inspire you?

Getting to know...St. Bernadette Soubirous.

St. Bernadette was born in 1844 to a destitute family in Lourdes, in France. On 11 February 1858 she went down to the river Gave with her sister and a friend, to look for firewood and bones. There she received the first of a series of visions of the Mother of God, which led to Lourdes becoming a place of pilgrimage and healing. In 1866 she became a nun at Nevers.

It is a rule of the Church that saints are to be celebrated for what they are and what they do, and to serve as examples of heroic virtue for us all. St. Bernadette's heroic virtues are suffering, and humility. Bernadette was seriously ill with asthma all her life and she died young. However, she never let illness be an excuse for anything. She died on 16 April 1879 in Nevers. St. Bernadette Soubirous is patron saint of the sick. (Adapted from Universalis Publishing Ltd 1996-2011)

Most of the world celebrates St. Bernadette's feast day on April 16, but in France, it is celebrated on February 11. Bernadette is the patron saint of One Arrow First Nation and Mosquito, Grizzly Bear's Head, Lean Man First Nation in the Diocese of Prince Albert. We pray that through the intercession of St. Bernadette the people who are sick may find comfort through the care of the people around them and feel the healing presence of Christ, the great Healer.