

Office Hours
Fr. Millan Sajonas
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Wednesday to Friday
9:00 am-12:00 noon
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Diocesan Family Faith Encounter 2020

June 12 & 13, 2020

Organized by Bishop Albert Thévenot, M. Afr. and
the Adult & Family Faith Formation Commission

Location: Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes,
St. Laurent, Duck Lake

Theme: Family Love: a vocation and a path to holiness
Speakers: Bishop Albert Thévenot, M. Afr and Tim Staples

Fun Activities for families!
Enjoy music from various performers!
Faith-filled talks and activities!
Further information TBA

Registration Fee: \$50 (Family),
\$20 (Individual), \$30 (Couple)

Make the cheque to: Diocese of Prince Albert

Send to: Fr. Millan Sajonas
461 12th Street West, Prince Albert, S6V3B9
For inquiries, please call Fr. Millan 306-763-5677
or email bmjs1981@gmail.com

Family Faith Encounter is organized by the Adult and Family Faith Formation Commission of the Diocese of Prince Albert and Bishop Albert Thévenot, M. Afr. It is sponsored by the Bishop's Annual Appeal. It hopes to gather families to have a faith-filled experience through talks, activities, and music. The theme for this year's gathering is "Family Love: a vocation and a path to holiness." Featured speaker is Tim Staples from Catholic Answers (for more information go to catholic.com). Various performers will be present to give entertainment. **Location:** Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Laurent, Duck Lake. **When:** [June 12 \(Friday\) & 13 \(Saturday\) 2020](#). **Please register!** You can bring your camper to the site. Further details TBA. For more information contact Fr Millan Sajonas 306-763-5677 or email bmjs1981@gmail.com

Suggested Materials:

- (1) *Oremus: A Guide to Catholic Prayer Study Program* (DVD) by Fr. Mark Toups;
- (2) *The Gift: Your Call to Greatness Study Program* (DVD) by Christopher West;
- (3) *Life is Worth Living* (CD) by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen;
- (4) *Following the Call of Christ Biblical Stories of Conversion* (CD) by Bishop Robert Barron.

For more resources: padiocese.ca or bmjsajonas.com

Next issue's contents:

Luke 14:12-14: The Parable of the Feast Invitations; Getting to know a parish in the 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 Fr. Maurice Fiolleau. (SK, Canada).

ADULT & FAMILY FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION

Diocese of Prince Albert

IMDVS January 2020

Luke 12:35-40: The Parable of the Faithful Servants

By Fr. Millan Sajonas

Each Christian is called to be a servant. We can be servants in our respective vocations in many ways. A servant is one who gives service to the community. In following Jesus, there is so much work to be done in the vineyard of the Lord. Each follower of Christ is to give according to his or her gifts, generously distributing of God's abundant blessings. There is service accomplished in preaching the Word of God, in praying, in helping the poor, in forming young people, in teaching, in defending the helpless, in providing to others, in caring for the sick, in admonishing sinners... our list can go on and on. A wide range of definitions can be given to the meaning of service. Yet, service is to be done out of love, and the goal is for salvation. As such, God has given various talents and gifts to be used for the welfare of humanity, to bring us closer to Him, and to lead us to eternal life. Moreover, being called stewards, we are asked to be faithful.

Faithfulness is expected of every Christian. In the context of the Gospel passage, a servant is to give service religiously and devotedly to God and others. It is doing one's work; nothing short of loving of God and neighbor. Another understanding of rendering faithful service is to preserve and strive for harmony and peace in the community; trying not to create problems and divisions. The Lord tells us, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35 NIV)

The parable emphasizes the need to be ready and vigilant for the Lord's return. There is a necessity of being ready in opening the door when the Master comes and knocks. Faithfulness is associated with being attentive to the Lord's return. Perhaps, the parable suggests that being stewards of the Lord's manifold gifts for the community highlights perseverance in undertaking the services, despite the unknowns of the Lord's return. What is certain is that the Lord will come again. When, where, and how the Lord is coming are not the essential questions, but whether we are ready when the Master finally comes and knocks at our doors. The Lord will arrive at an unexpected time and hour.

Now, blessed are the servants whom the Master finds ready and waiting for His return. There will be a reward. In the Gospel passage, there is a reversal of roles of the servants and the Master. The gratuitous, faithful service of the Lord's servant will be a sharing of the eternal banquet. One's readiness and alertness through faithful service will lead to one's participation at the wedding feast. This promise may serve as motivation, an inspiration to persevere and to labor tirelessly for the Lord. (Continued on page 3)

History of St. Joseph Parish

St. Joseph Parish was established on May 8, 1952, a year after the P.A. Roman Catholic School Division opened St. Joseph School and Father M. Réginald Thériault, O.P. was assigned as temporary administrator of the future parish. Father Raymond M. Drouin, O.P. became the first pastor in January 1953. The original St. Joseph Church and hall were opened and blessed by Bishop Leo Blais on December 9, 1956. Father Luc Gaudet became the parish's longest serving priest in January 1964, remaining there for almost twenty years. In July 1969, Walter Charpentier was named as assistant.

The parish celebrated its 25th anniversary in September 1977, with Father Drouin and Bishop Laurent Morin in attendance. Father Jean-Marie Boutin became the new pastor in June 1983. Two years later, the parish list showed 4,100 members, and a decision was made to build a new church and hall. The official sod-turning ceremony was performed on August 11, 1987, and the first Sunday Liturgy was celebrated in the newly-constructed church on July 10, 1988. Bishop Blaise Morand blessed the church at the official opening on November 20, 1988. Father Albert LeGatt was named pastor in August 1990, and served until July 1999. Ed McLeod was ordained to the permanent diaconate in July 1991, serving this parish before being transferred to St. Mark Parish. St. Joseph celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 1992. Anne Marie Gobeil (Sharyk) was hired as pastoral assistant in August 1994, serving faithfully until December 2004. Father Otto Dzodofe came to our parish in July 1999 on a two year sabbatical from Ghana. He was replaced by another Ghanaian priest, Father Ephraim Mensah, in August 2001.

The parish's 50th Anniversary was celebrated in 2002 with a Mass and social evening on May 10 and an outdoor Mass and picnic on June 23. On July 28, 2004, Father Matthew Nguyen was named as our pastor. Father Matthew was also the Diocesan Vocation Director, in addition to his numerous parish duties. He worked closely with and supported all seminarians sponsored by the Prince Albert Diocese. Sister Gertrude Gareau, a Sister of the Presentation of Mary, became our pastoral assistant in July 2005. That same month, Hilda Powell became chairperson of the parish council. The parish thanked Betty Makelki for her service and dedication during her seven years as parish council chairperson. Julie McNay became chairperson of parish council in 2007. A highlight for that year was the implementation of a diocesan directive to restore the original order of the Sacraments of Initiation with the reception of Confirmation and First Eucharist at the same celebration. In 2009, new vision and mission statements were developed with the input of the parishioners. They are as follows: Vision: "A Home Away From Home" and Mission: "To build and nurture a faithful, hopeful, and loving parish community." On March 19th, 2010, on the feast of St. Joseph, our parish marked the "Year of the Priest" by inviting all former pastors, assistant pastors and seminarians back for a special celebration which included a Mass, dinner and a program to recognize their contributions to our parish over the years. Clergy and religious from throughout the diocese came to celebrate with us. Father Roque S. Concepcion became our new pastor in August 2011 and Father Matthew Nguyen, who had been with us for seven years became the Rector of the Sacred Heart Cathedral. Arsène Billo became parish council chairperson in 2011, and the implementation of another major diocesan initiative, "Our Living Covenant: The Responsible Ministry Protocol" was started.

The 60th Anniversary celebration as a parish was held on March 18, 2012 with a Eucharistic celebration presided by the Most Reverend Albert Thèvenot, Bishop of Prince Albert. Also present to celebrate with the parishioners were Bishop Emeritus Blaise Morand, Very Reverend Father Maurice Fiolleau, Very Reverend Father Matthew Nguyen and Reverend Father Roque S. Concepcion. Over the years, the parish has participated in many diocesan programs and celebrations, including: the diocese's Centennial in 1991, the Renew 2000 process from 1998-2000, the diocesan Eucharistic Congress in 2000, the Jubilee Year, a diocesan celebration for Father LeGatt as bishop-elect of Saskatoon in 2001, and the visit of the World Youth Day Cross in 2001; a diocesan celebration to bid farewell to Bishop Emeritus Blaise Morand and the installation of Most Reverend Albert Thèvenot as our new bishop in 2008, the installation of Most Reverend Albert LeGatt as Archbishop of St. Boniface in 2009, and a celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the P.A. Catholic School Division in 2012.

(Source: 2007 Parish Directory of St. Joseph Parish, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada)

(Continued from page 1) May we sit at the table faithfully listening and watching for the knock of the Lord, for His arrival while we do what must be done to offer devoted services at the table of the Lord, in the presence of our brothers and sisters!

Reflection Questions

1. Where is the Lord calling you to be a servant?
2. What are the services that you render to others?
3. How did you discern your service or services?
4. Who are the people that you are serving?
5. What do you do to remain ready and vigilant for the coming of the Lord?

Are you interested to join a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land?

There is a pilgrimage going to the Holy Land from January 12 to 20, 2021. It is organized by Fr. Millan Sajonas and Biyaheng Kapamilya sa Holy Land. The theme is "**A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: I rejoiced when I heard them say 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'**"

For further details, visit www.kapamilyaholyland.com or <https://www.bmjsajonas.com/upcoming-activities> or call Fr. Millan at 306-763-5677/ email: bmjs1981@gmail.com

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 the 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 in joining or knowing more about this initiative may contact the Adult Faith Formation Commission or email bmjs1981@gmail.com or call 306-763-5677. In Prince Albert, we have started an hour of Adoration every Thursday night from 7:00 - 8:00 pm at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish. Join us!