

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@padicoese.ca

Have a blessed Lenten Season! May you have a grace-filled Easter!

Adult Faith Formation Committee

Bishop Albert Thevenot, M. Afr.	Rev. Fr. Frederick Akah, MSP (Deanery 4)
Rev. Fr. Alberto Dela Pena (Deanery 6)	Rev. Fr. Millan Sajonas (Deanery 1)
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Donna Brad (Deanery 4)	Collete Marchildon (Deanery 2)
Dra. Jenny Balingit (Deanery 1)	Delores Smallchild (Deanery 3)
Paul Joy (Deanery 1)	

Gospel Readings in Lent 2018

Ash Wednesday: Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	March 1: Lk 16:19-31	March 17: Jn 7:40-52
Feb 15: Lk 9:22-25	March 2: Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	5th Sun: Jn 12:20-33
Feb 16: Mt 9:14-15	March 3: Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	March 19: Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24
Feb 17: Lk 5:27-32	3rd Sun: Jn 4:5-16, 19-26, 39-42	March 20: Jn 8:21-30
1st Sun: Mk 1:12-15	March 5: Lk 4:24-30	March 21: Jn 8:31-42
Feb 19: Mt 25:31-46	March 6: Mt 18:21-35	March 22: Jn 8:51-59
Feb 20: Mt 6:7-15	March 7: Mt 5:17-19	March 23: Jn 10:31-42
Feb 21: Lk 11:29-32	March 8: Lk 11:14-23	March 24: Jn 11:45-56
Feb 22: Mt 16:13-19	March 9: Mk 12:28-34	Palm Sun: Mk 14:1-15:47
Feb 23: Mt 5:20-26	March 10: Lk 18:9-14	March 26: Jn 12:1-11
Feb 24: Mt 5:43-48	4th Sun: Jn 3:14-21	March 27: Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
2nd Sun: Mk 9:2-10	March 12: Jn 4:43-54	March 28: Mt 26:14-25
Feb 26: Lk 6:36-38	March 13: Jn 5:1-3, 5-16	March 29: Jn 13:1-15
Feb 27: Mt 23:1-12	March 14: Jn 5:17-30	March 30: Jn 18:1-19:42
Feb 28: Mt 20:17-28	March 15: Jn 5:31-47	March 31: Mk 16:1-8
	March 16: Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30	Easter Sunday: Lk 24:13-35

Pastoral Centre Resources: (1) Why Go to Confession? by Fr. Joseph Sica (2) The Sacrament of Reconciliation by Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM (3) Francis of Assisi by M. Curtiz & B. Dillman (4) Forgiven: Strategies on How to promote Confession (5 Sessions) by Augustine Institute (5) Forgiven! The Blessings of Confession (DVD) by Herald Entertainment (6) St. Padre Pio (DVD) by the Eternal World Television Network

Suggested Materials: (1) A Lent to Remember: A Lenten Encounter with Mercy (4 Sessions) by FORMED (2) Could God Love Someone Like Me? (CD) by Fr. Michael Schmitz (3) My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent (CD) by Bishop Robert Barron (4) Lent with the Saints by Catholic Truth Society (5) Confession (CD) by Fr. Larry Richards (6) Lenten Meditations: Growing in Friendship with God by William A. Barry, SJ (7) Fasting and Abstinence During Lent (A Lenten Video Reflection) by Fr. Richard Leonard, SJ

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

Next issue's contents:

The Passion and Death of Christ: a reflection on John 18-19; Getting to know a patron saint of our diocese; Bible Study, Resources for faith formation, and much more...

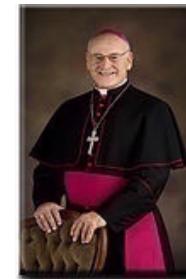
Editors:

Sr. Mariette Bilodeau (SK, Canada), Dr. Matthew Allen Newland, PhD (QC, Canada), Fr. Millan Sajonas (SK, Canada), and Bishop Albert Thevenot, M. Afr.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFICE Diocese of Prince Albert

IMDVS February 2018

Diocese of Prince Albert
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



Diocèse de Prince Albert
BUREAU DE L'ÉVÊQUE

February 1, 2018

We ended the month of January with a blue moon and a red one. Unfortunately, I did not see the red moon, a rare event indeed. The blue moon is more frequently experienced. What a natural beauty! What a coincidence!

During the month of February, we will also experience another "double- double." Our Lenten season begins on Valentine's Day. What a coincidence! On the other hand, they both deal with what is dear to us – love. As Valentine's Day approaches, we search for a gift that would better express our love relationship and how this relationship is dear to one another. It is really an opportunity for us to believe and commit to that relationship. Will it be chocolates, roses, an evening dining out with your love one? On the other hand, maybe it will just be "I love you" or maybe all the above? Love is not an event or not even an experience but a journey of people committed to a relationship bearing the fruits needed to change our world.

The Lenten Season is also about a love relationship, our relationship with the Lord. This relationship opens many doors offering us opportunities to express to him that we truly love him. This love will lead us to the world around us, as relationships need to be nurtured with time together. How does one deepen this relationship if not through the reading of his Word and pondering on it?

We all know that Lent is not an event but a journey, which will continue after Easter morning. This relationship does bear fruit. Often without noticing it, we may have changed something in ourselves that others often detect, like the sun changing the colour of our skin and everybody notices that we have been down south for a time during the winter. It opens our eyes to the suffering of our brothers and sisters around us. We all try to comfort or to ease the suffering of our love ones. To realize the above, we need to let go and embrace the freedom to love the world we live in. My drop of water in the bucket may be the one needed to let the overflow of God's mercy into the world, the forgiveness needed to build bridges between people and nations, to bring food and water to the poor, and to give them opportunities to live like human beings in our world. This is possible if we love and let ourselves be loved by the Lord. We are his beloveds.

Since we are a family of families, family life will be celebrated this month with opportunities to be together and to enjoy the presence of one another as brothers and sisters. May we be mindful of our sick, vulnerable, and elderly. Join us as we anoint them with oil that helps us express the mercy and healing power of Our Lord. This is all in February.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Albert Thévenot M. Afr.
Bishop of Prince Albert

The Reassurance and Sign by Fr. Millan Sajonas

If we trust the Will of God and are obedient to His words; He does not abandon disciples who accept His mission. Rather, God strengthens His followers, giving them the necessary graces that they need to accomplish the task. Though such help from God is not always seen, the experiences of people, especially those who have dedicated their lives for the mission of the Lord, tell us that there is a reassurance from God that He will accompany us every step of the way.

Varied are the ways that God sends us His reassurance. It ranges from the complexity of grace at work within us to external factors employed in the fulfillment of the mission. God's reassurance does not guarantee a smooth and untroubled process to accomplish His task. Rather, it is the knowledge that, despite the trials and difficulties might arise, one's will and efforts to carry out the mission count in the eyes and heart of God.

God accompanies us through our earthly pilgrimage, and yet life is filled with positive and negative experiences. An easy or difficult life does not assure salvation; rather, deeds of charity and holiness, by God's grace, lead to salvation. As such, there is a constant need to discern and pray that every action might please God, especially in our dealings with others. God's assurance is a life-long journey. There is a goal, an end of our striving for the mission. It may not necessarily mean that the mission is accomplished. There still might be work to be done which others will continue. However, when our lives end, our part of the task is completed. In the words of St. Paul to Timothy (2 Tim 4:7), "I have fought the good fight, I have accomplished the race, I have kept the faith."

Whatever is the case, whether our mission is done or is meant to be continued by others, there is always a sign that should accompany the mission of the Lord. Though different criteria can be given to ascertain God's works, there are also general standards that tell whether such works come from God, namely; they are oriented to the good and for the salvation of souls. Some visible signs could be mentioned, such as conversion, an increase in spiritual and corporal works of mercy, miracles, apparitions, and growth in holiness of life. Our list of manifestations of the signs from God could go on.

The signs could be our gauge of the authenticity of God's mission. They may also be a way for us to discern what we can contribute to the task, making it our mission too.

Questions for Reflection on the article "The Reassurance and the Sign"

1. What are the difficulties and trials of your mission received from God?
2. Is there a reassurance from God for your mission? How did you discern it?
3. How do you fulfill your mission that God entrusted amidst the tribulations of life?
4. Do you see a sign of success of your mission? What is the sign that God gives for it?
5. Is your mission complete or in progress? If it is in progress, what is still to be done?
6. What can others contribute to your mission?
7. How is your mission affecting your relationship with others?

The Gospel of St. Luke was probably written in Greece, and was addressed to a majority Greek-speaking audience, for whom the synagogue was a foreign institution. St. Luke's community has a strong universal perspective. Luke's style of Greek is good, elegant, and literary. It has the tendency to remove Judeo-Christian materials from the Q Source. It also has replaced Jewish titles with Greek ones, such as *kyrios*, and *epistates*. In the Gospel, Jesus' one long journey to his goal is **Jerusalem**. Jesus is perceived as a great prophet in word and deed. He is depicted as the Lord of all nations, and the Saviour, especially of the poor. He is seen as healing the sick and the impaired while forgiving sinners and debtors. Jesus' teaching on discipleship is simple and direct: one should leave everything to follow him, to share with the poor, and to accept everyone, especially the outcasts, women, and even one's own enemies. The eschatological expectation is that after Jerusalem's destruction, the gentiles' time is fulfilled. The basis of final judgment is on how one uses wealth or possessions, as demonstrated in the parable of the rich and the poor (Luke 16:1-31).

Getting to know...St. Vitalis of Ravenna/of Milan

St. Vitalis was the husband of St. Valeria and the father of two other saints, St. Gervasius and St. Protasius. This Christian family lived in the first century, and they were citizens of Milan. St. Vitalis was an assistant of judge Paulinus. In the absence of judge Paulinus, Vitalis presided over the case of a Christian doctor St. Ursicinus. The latter feared the possibility of torture and death. Vitalis, who was a Christian himself, strengthened the resolve of Ursicinus to give witness to his faith. Ursicinus, encouraged by Vitalis' words, died as a martyr. Then, Vitalis took his fellow Christian's body and gave it a proper burial. Judge Paulinus learned about his assistant's Christian actions. He ordered Vitalis' arrest. After torture, Vitalis was buried alive in Ravenna. Vitalis' feast is observed on the 28th of April.

St. Vitalis is the patron saint of the Roman Catholic Church in Battleford, that bears his name. The name Vital is derived from Vitalis, who was a Christian father, and an example of Christian faith for his family, as well as others. Let us pray that through the intercession of St. Vital, the faithful in the Diocese of Prince Albert may continue to help each other grow in their faith and really understand the importance of giving respectful and proper burial to loved ones.