

**ST. MARY'S: ST. PATRICK'S: ST. EDMUNDS:
HORSE LAKE RESERVE**



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Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am – 3pm

****Please have Bulletin info to office by 3pm on Wednesdays****

Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan website: www.archgm.ca

"We are called to nurture Life and Spirit"



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD January 9, 2022

MASS TIMES:

**NEW SUNDAY MASS TIMES AT ST. MARY'S Church: Saturday 3PM,
Sunday 11AM and 6:30PM**

St. Mary's – Beaverlodge

Weekday Mass: Monday – Saturday: 9:00 AM

Sunday Mass: 11:00 AM and 6:30PM

First Saturday of the Month: 9:00 AM

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard ½ hour before all Masses and anytime upon request.

Rosary for Peace ~ The CWL invites all to join them in the recitation of the Rosary on every Tuesday after the 9 AM Mass, St. Mary's Church

Christian Meditation: Every Wednesday at 4:00 PM at St. Mary's Church

School Mass

Every fourth Friday of each month unless otherwise posted (No Adoration on these Fridays)

St. Edmund's – Hythe

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays: 9:00 AM

2nd and 4th Sunday Mass will be celebrated on Saturday at 4:30 PM

St. Edmund's Church prays the Rosary every Thursday afternoon at 4:00pm.

All are welcome.

St. Patrick's – Rio Grande

2nd & 4th Sundays: 9:00 AM

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday Mass will be

Celebrated on Saturday at 7:30 PM

Parish Pastoral Council: 2nd Tuesday – 4:00 PM

Parish Finance Council: As announced

Catholic Women's League: Beaverlodge: 1st Wednesday – 7:00 PM

Rio Grande: Members will be notified

Knights of Columbus: 3rd Sunday – 10:00 AM

This Week

Monday ~ Servant of God Vico Necchi
Tuesday ~ Blessed William Carter
Wednesday ~ Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys
Thursday ~ Saint Hilary of Poitiers
Friday ~ Saint Felix of Nola
Saturday ~ Saint Paul the Hermit

Father's Footsteps:

Jan 10 – 15, 2022

Daily Rosary at 8:30 am. Mass at 9:00AM.

Monday Jan 10: Mass at 9:00 AM

Ministry outreach, Beaverlodge Hospital and neighboring communities

RCIA – First Nation

Tuesday Jan 11: Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM.

Followed by CWL rosary for peace.

Ministry outreach, Beaverlodge Hospital and neighboring communities

Seminar on Synodality

RCIA - Sacramental Preparation Meeting

Wednesday Jan 12: Mass at 9:00 AM followed by Novena

10:30AM – 11: 20 AM Holy Eucharist at Hythe Continuing Care,

11:25 AM Holy Eucharist at Hythe Pionner's Home

Ministry Outreach , Horse Lake First Nation .

CWL meeting at 4:30PM

Thursday Jan 13: Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM

Ministry outreach, Beaverlodge Hospital and neighboring communities

Seminar

Friday Jan 14: Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM.

Eucharistic Adoration at 9:30AM – 10:00AM

Holy Communion & Visit to sick and housebond. Ministry outreach, Beaverlodge Hospital and neighboring communities

Saturday Jan 15: Holy Rosary at 8:30 AM. Mass at 9: Sunday Mass celebrated on Saturday at 3:00PM
Sunday Mass celebrated on Saturday in St. Patrick's Church, Rio Grande, at 7:30PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard ½ hour before all Masses and anytime upon request.

Holy Communion to the sick and house bond,

Blessings: Available anytime upon request

BAPTISM: Please contact the rectory for baptismal preparations and to set a date.

MARRIAGES: Please contact the rectory to make arrangements and to begin marriage preparation at least six months prior to the desired date.

OCIA AND ANY OTHER SACRAMENTS:

Please contact the Parish office at 780.354.2415 or Email: stmarys1@telus.net

Those who wish to offer Holy Eucharistic Mass for the dearly departed or healing or any other personal intention please contact Fr. Michael at 780-354-2415 or 780-814-3471

You are welcome to send us prayer request so that we can place your prayer intention at the feet of the Lord and pray as a community.

The Archdiocese GM Monthly Magazine

"Northern Light"

Consists of a lot of information about what is happening around the Archdiocese, stories, upcoming events and a much more!

Annual subscription will be \$ 60.00.

Please Contact the Chancery office for more details or to purchase your annual subscription at: 780.532.9766 or archgm.ca

Synod on Synodality

Curious about the Archdiocese's work in the upcoming Synod on Synodality and how you may get involved?

Our synod team have prepared these pages for our website, giving an overview of what this diocesan synodal process looks like, leading into the Synod in Rome in 2023.

<https://archgm.ca/synod-2023-the-diocesan-phase/>

<https://archgm.ca/synod-introduction/>

<https://archgm.ca/synod-fundamental-question/>

<https://archgm.ca/synod-the-process/>

<https://archgm.ca/synod-listening-gatherings/>

Relaxed and permitted

1. A procession with cross-bearer, 2 candles-bearers, the Book of Gospels, and presider. Masked and keeping 2 metre distance between participants.
2. Congregational singing will be allowed but masks must be worn over mouth and nose while singing.
3. Song leader, choir members and cantor must practice 2 metre distance between participants and continue to be masked while singing. Sharing of microphones is discouraged.
4. Wind instruments are not permitted.
5. On reaching the sanctuary, altar servers are to keep 2 metre distance for each other. They do not serve as acolytes at the altar.
6. Holy water may be placed in fonts for use but should be changed after every liturgy.
7. Reception of communion of the Precious Blood is limited to the celebrant and concelebrants (using individual chalices or by intinction).
8. A recessional procession following the same requirements as the entrance procession.
9. Proper sanitation of cross and candles is to be observed.

You are required to follow Covid Protocols, especially during the Mass. All are welcome to worship the Lord and celebrate in a safe and healthy environment.



Thanks to everyone who helped in cleaning, decorating, singing and getting involved in various ministries in our parish community all throughout the year 2021. And we count on your support and help in this New Year 2022!



May God bless you and your loved ones with lot's of love, peace and joy.

Offertory Envelopes

The 2022 Offertory envelopes are now available. When you attend Mass, please remember to pick up your box of envelopes from the foyer. If there is no box with your name on it and you want a box, please let the parish office know in person, by phone or by email. If you are donating via Pre-Authorized Giving or Donate Now at the Archdiocese, you normally would not have an envelope box assigned to you.



We are now permitted to have altar servers assisting at Mass, as cross bearers, candle bearers and the Readers carrying the Book of the Gospels at Sunday Masses.

We request the parents and teachers to encourage children to be altar servers.

Please contact Fr. Michael for any information or interest in Altar Serving at 780-814-3471

Seven Ways to make New Year meaningful

Numbers 6:22 -27. Luke 2: 16 – 21

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

A monk was delivering a long sermon on how to be happy in life. After his talk all his congregation left the auditorium except one young man who was standing there staring at the monk. The monk asked him what he wanted. The man said, ‘would you please tell me, ‘what should I do to be happy for life?’ The monk in a calm tone replied, ‘Just love your life as it is.’

This may seem simple advice, but it is not so simply to follow. Many people today have made their careers and work the most important aspect of their lives. They have distorted the natural order of things, and have surrendered themselves to a life of disorder. Their lives are imbalanced, unfulfilled, and increasingly unhappy.

Like anything worth achieving, a life of balance and order comes only through effort. Some people try to juggle randomly all the elements of their lives without assigning a priority to each of them, and then they constantly wonder if they will ever achieve the better life – the happy life, the balanced and ordered life, they sense deep down they are capable of. To achieve this with any consistency requires a systematic approach. It requires a plan, a pattern, or a schedule.

Love my life as it is? When we think of this kind of advice many can’t help but feel hurt, especially when we reflect on our past and the future, as we bid goodbye to 2021 and welcome the New Year 2022. True, we may be happy in this last year if we were spared from accidents, illness, deaths, and that we will live to see and experience another year. We are happy that, despite all our blunders, unhealthy habits and misbehavior, so much has been forgiven, not punished. We are overwhelmed with joy that, despite all prophecies and predictions of doom and terror, the place in which we live has so far been kept in balance between war and peace, disaster and prosperity, crime and sanctity, violence and kindness, and terrorism and charity. We indeed at this time of the year feel very grateful, to all the good things of the past year. We are thankful to our loved ones, parents, friends, leaders, teachers, preachers and even our enemies. Above all, we feel truly grateful to the Lord Most High for His wonderful providence over us at the beginning of New Year.

However, others feelings too subdue us, about the demise or separation of our loved ones, the loss of possessions, and other difficult trials of the past year. We feel sad that we missed good opportunities to improve, to gain, to do good; we are sorry that we hurt our friends and relatives, for making wrong decisions; we feel unhappy for the dreams and plans that were not realized or ended up in failure. Undoubtedly, we are anxious and fearful about the future of this coming year. We ask certain questions with anxiety: Will my dreams and plans be accomplished? Will my fate, my trials, great upheavals like the pandemic, continue in the New Year? What about my family issues - the irritable habits of my husband, the stubborn temperament of my wife, the unpredictable behaviour of my children and so on. Now we ask the monk, in the midst of the chaotic experiences of life - how can we ever love it as it is?

On this earth we will always have many concerns. Some we should pay attention to, others we ought to renounce. The world in which we live often reflects the splendor or the Divine, yet it does not take much for us to become blinded to the wonder of God displayed in the everyday. Despite the setbacks this life can bring, despite the problems that fill our world, it is a wonderful place and it is to be loved and cherished by us all. Life was made by God, and therefore it is good.

How do we see the Divine, the goodness of life, despite the trials, difficulties and sins of the world around us and of those within our own lives? The Lord directs us through His powerful Word to great resources of blessings. In the Book of Numbers, God gives Moses and Aaron the formula they should use while conferring the Divine blessing upon the Israelites: *“The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace”*. Psalm 67, begs for the blessing of God, saying, *“May God have pity on us and bless us; may He let His face shine upon us.”*

If we want to be blessed by God, we must turn to our elders, our moms, our dads, our teachers, and our religious leaders, for God has entrusted such wonderful authority and responsibility to us weak and vulnerable humans. In the Bible we see how Isaac received God’s blessings from his father Abraham; Jacob’s from Isaac, while Esau wept for missing those blessings; Moses and Aaron were the great patriarchs through whom God blessed His people in the desert. Later, Aaron’s clan members were vested with such power of blessings.

With faith, we become a blessing to each other, and God blesses each of us through one another. Jesus, our friend, is an eternal gift of blessing. Mary, the Mother of God, stands near us always to shower blessings upon us. That’s why on New Year’s day we celebrate the feast of Mary as the Mother of God and of the Church. The Word made flesh is the greatest source of God’s blessings, and Mary was the first human person filled with all the blessings of God. Through her son, through her status as our Mother, she is deeply concerned about us. We see this in her apparitions, appearing often to small children and the most humble of servants,

sharing her concern for us and warning us of coming trials and the end of time. Both the Son and the Mother are very anxious about our welfare.

To bring all these thoughts together, I conclude with several ways that come to my mind for how we can make this new year meaningful. We must first have something to dream of – a noble plan of action, that we set out with each day of this year, remembering the proverb “Cherish your yesterdays, dream your tomorrows, but live your today.” But more than something to dream, we must have something to do. Our time is a gift, it is most valuable and most limited. It is to be used in fruitful endeavours, or else it is wasted. We must not be a barren fig tree, nor barren branches in God’s vineyard, but fruitful. Each day we have a marvelous opportunity to achieve something new, something meaningful. I remember whenever I met Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata in her homes for the destitute and dying, she would always tell me, **‘Do something beautiful to God each day’**. That’s how she lived her simple, ordinary humble life, serving the poorest of the poor, desiring to do good for others and loving everyone.

But even more than dreaming and doing, we must find someone to love and care for. This becomes easy when we make God the center of our life and realize His presence in all the people around us. Saint Mother Teresa also said, ‘Let us light a candle instead of blaming the darkness around us’. Just as the moon borrows the sun’s light to illuminate the earth, we too must radiate the Light of God shining within us. Do you see that every person you encounter in your day-to-day life is a **‘Sacrament’**? This is so, if we know to see the face of God in others. With this attitude in mind and heart, it becomes easy to love everyone, to appreciate and acknowledge goodness in everything.

Let us pray this prayer of Dag Hammarskjod: *“Lord, for all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!”* and this as well: *“Give me a pure heart that I may see Thee, A humble heart that I may hear thee A heart of love that I may serve Thee, A heart of Faith that I may abide in Thee.”*

God bless.

By Fr. Michael Dias