

Rocky Mountain House - St. Matthew

**March 22, 2020 – 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT (A)**

**ST. MATTHEW PARISH AND MISSIONS**

**Rocky Mountain House - St. Matthew Church  
Caroline - St. Joseph the Workman Church  
Evergreen - Jesuit Martyrs Church**



Evergreen - Jesuit Martyrs



Caroline - St. Joseph



Bulletin QR Code

**INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE SUNDAY • 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a \* Ephesians 5:8-14 \* John 9:1-41**

**The Lord of all gives sight to the blind.** Jesus' power and claims divide those who encounter him. He is the long-awaited one, and he heals all wounds, even giving sight to the blind. We can trust that Jesus can heal all the wounds of our lives, giving us sight to see and a light to follow in the darkness of sin. ♦ **In the first reading**, the Lord sends Samuel to Jesse of Bethlehem because the Lord has chosen the new king from among Jesse's sons. Samuel goes, and anoints David *in the presence of his brothers*. **In Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians**, he exhorts them to *live as children of light*. **In the Gospel**, Jesus encounters a man blind from birth. After Jesus gives the man sight, the Pharisees become divided over the account. The man defends Jesus, explaining that he must be from God.



Dear Parishioners,

It is with great sadness that we have to suspend the public celebration of Masses in our Churches. These are critical times and we must respond responsibly to the advice we are being given from the government and medical authorities. The Eucharist is the source and summit of all that we do and it is central to our lives. I will celebrate privately Masses in St. Matthew Church in Rocky Mountain House without participation of parishioners. Masses will be recorded on video and publish on our parish website starting on Sunday, March 22, 2020. While the congregation will not be physically present they will gather around the altar in a spiritual way and receive the healing presence of Christ into their lives.

All celebrations of Baptism, First Eucharist, First Reconciliation and Confirmation are postponed until the Chief Medical Officer has advised that the pandemic has ended. Sacramental Preparation Classes are cancelled. All Parish Penitential Celebrations are cancelled. Funerals will be celebrated but participation will be limited to close family members so as to be in compliance with prevailing medical directives. Public receptions following the funeral liturgy will not be allowed.

Parish office is open from noon to 4.00 PM from Monday to Friday. Church building will be open during office hours for people to come and pray and seek the Lord's strength and comfort at this time. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every day from 3.00 PM to 4.00 PM (Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday - Friday - Saturday - Sunday).

Confession is offered anytime by appointment and during Adoration on weekend (3.00 PM - 4.00 PM, Sat. & Sun.).

Communion cannot be given to the faithful at any time, even if they come "privately" to the church.

This is an evolving situation and one that we have never faced before. We must not think that just because we are without the Eucharist for the time being, our faith would be compromised. The early Christians and those Christians still under persecution in some countries today also did not have the privilege of the Eucharist to accompany them in their faith journey. But they were still able to keep their faith alive and growing by reading, praying and sharing the Word of God.

Thank you for your understanding and for putting the interests of the larger community before your own. Let us support each other in our faith and continue to pray for the elimination of this virus from the world. Please, check frequently our parish website for updates. God bless you all!

Fr. Leon.



## SPECIAL APPEAL FOR DONATIONS

Even in this difficult time we still have to run the parish and pay utilities and other bills and we have financial responsibilities to those employed. We depend completely on the support and generosity of parishioners and we need your help. You can donate to the parish by leaving your donation in our parish office. Very soon we will offer the opportunity to give a donation on our parish website.

## A PRAYER AT THIS TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

*This is an occasion for all of us - especially in families to pray more intensely for each other and especially for those who have succumbed to the illness. It is a time when we can reach out to others, a phone call to a neighbour living alone and particular care of the elderly and those who are vulnerable. We should pray also for those in the frontlines - especially doctors, nurses and medical staff and other carers, including clergy - that the Lord will protect them as they place their own wellbeing at risk in the service of all. In this time of need we trust in the Lord.*



**Jesus Christ, you are our refuge from one generation to the next. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of this virus, that we may experience your healing presence.**

**Heal those who are sick with the virus. Heal us from our fear and worry. Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty.**

**Be with those who have died. May they be at rest in your eternal peace.**

**Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals. May they know your inspiring presence.**

**Be with us that we may act with care. Be with the leaders and those who have responsibilities. Give them the wisdom and insight to make good decisions.**

**Be with us in our time of need, calm our anxieties and bring your healing and peace. Amen.**



## Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary for Protection from Coronavirus

**O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entered ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.**

**Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.**

**We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test - and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.**

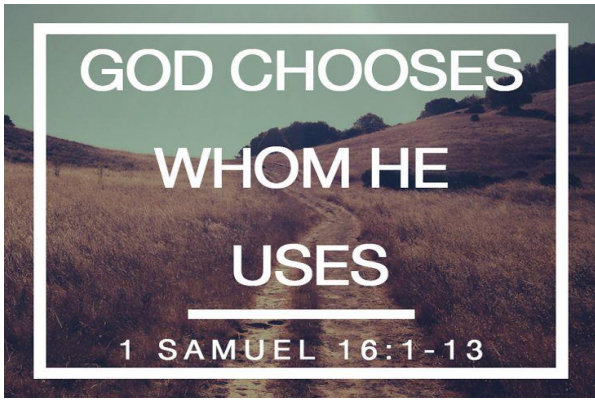
## Intentions of the Prayer of the Faithful

**Priest:** We turn now in prayer to God the Father and ask him to cure us of many forms of blindness so that we may lead lives befitting children of the light.

1. **We pray for our Holy Father and bishops of the church. May they be so inspired by the light of the gospel as to radiate the happiness which closeness to God brings.** Let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer
2. **We pray for ourselves. May our hearts always be open to come to the aid of parishioners who are in need of our help, especially at this time of coronavirus.** Let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer
3. **We remember those who have lost their way in life and are living in the darkness of despair. We pray that they may come to see the light of God in the person of Jesus.** Let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer
4. **We pray for all mothers. We thank them for the gift of life, the love they have given us and the faith they have shared with us.** Let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer
5. **For those who are sick in mind and heart that they may be healed and comforted.** Let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer
6. **We remember our dead. Grant them eternal rest and perpetual light.** Let us pray to the Lord: R. Lord, hear our prayer

**Priest:** Heavenly Father, hear our prayers and grant us the grace to live in the light of your truth as we journey on our pilgrimage of faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.





In the first reading, we are given a glimpse into the ways of God. The least of all became the first, chosen by God to be a king. From that day forward, any success David might enjoy would be proof of God's favor, giving strength to David's weakness. In choosing the unlikely one, the unanticipated one, one seemingly so small for a task so great, God shows us that nothing is impossible with his help. God sees potential where all we might see are shortcomings. God envisions more for us than we could ever imagine.

The second reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Ephesians is a clarion call to this truth about God. Paul exhorts the people of Ephesus to *live as children of light*. For God desires more of us than for us to live in darkness. He sent his Son to overcome darkness with light, that we might all *arise from the dead*, and receive the light of Christ.

This glimpse into the ways of God, and the contrast between darkness and light, set the stage for today's Gospel. Rather than rejoicing that the blind man has been given the gift of sight, he is accused of sin as if he was to blame for his blindness. Many in Jesus' time considered blindness to be God's curse. A blind man was a "nobody" since he was unable to work to provide for a spouse and family, and he lived as a beggar on the streets. For Jesus to give this man sight is akin to a rebirth into society: He gives him new hope and a better life. The Lord offers the same to all who believe.

This lengthy Gospel forms the basis for the Second Scrutiny for the Elect preparing for baptism. It serves as a reminder to us that we are all born blind, and we receive our sight at baptism when we are first able to look at the world through the fresh eyes of faith. Indeed, the Lord states his purpose clearly: *I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see*. Thus, from the young and unexpected King David's lineage came another young and unexpected king: Jesus Christ. Through him, God has reconciled us to himself, brought us out of darkness into light, and given us the eyes of faith to declare *I do believe, Lord*.

As our Lenten journey has passed the halfway point, we pray that the Lord may continue to open our eyes to what we need to see, to heal us of our blind spots and to acknowledge the sins we overlook. May we look at each other the way God looks at each of us - with love and with mercy, because God desires more for us than we could ever imagine. And may the grace of the Eucharist transform us to lead lives *pleasing to the Lord, producing every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth*.



## PASTOR - FR. LEON KLER

Deacon (Retired) - Bernie Ouellette  
Secretary - Vivian Duhamel

### ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

5208-53 Ave (Box 130) ♦ Rocky Mountain House, AB \* T4T 1A1

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 12.00 PM (Noon) - 04.00 PM

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Direct voice/fax/text line to office 403.845.3457  
Direct voice/fax/text line to pastor 587.355.3947  
Direct email address to office office@smpmhc.ca  
Direct email address to pastor pastor@smpmhc.ca

### PARISH MINISTRIES

Altar Servers Deacon Bernie Ouellette 403.846.0453  
Baptism Preparation Class Steve/Donna Oscar 403.895.0373  
Bible Study Mondays Mara Gagne 403.845.0940  
Bible Study Sundays Lisa Sembaliuk 403.846.7137  
Called to Protect Ernie Murias 403.845.4860  
Children's Liturgy Mona Cruickshank 403.846.1027  
CWL Joyce Donald 403.895.4156  
First Communion Class Catherine van Kampen 403.845.2923  
Knights of Columbus Gary Donald 403.845.5269  
Maintenance Ernie Murias 403.845.4860  
Ministry to the Sick Ernie Murias 403.845.4860  
Music Ministry Quintal Doreen 403.846.8733  
Parish Finance Council Randall Sugden 403.844.8478  
Parish Pastoral Council Lauren MacKenzie 403.845.2836  
Prayer Chain Alice Murray 403.722.4056  
Youth Group Peter van Kampen 403.848.0955

### SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 07.00 PM Rocky Mountain House  
Sunday 09.00 AM Rocky Mountain House  
Sunday 11.00 AM Evergreen  
Sunday 01.00 PM Caroline

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday No Mass  
Tuesday 06.30 PM - St. Matthew Church, RMH  
Wednesday 09.00 AM - St. Matthew Church, RMH  
Thursday 09.00 AM - St. Matthew Church, RMH  
10.30 AM - Jesuit Martyrs, Evergreen  
Friday 09.00 AM - St. Matthew Church, RMH

### MONTHLY MASSES

First Wednesday 08.00 AM - St. Matthew School, RMH  
First Wednesday 11.00 AM - Eckville Manor, Eckville  
First Friday 11.00 AM - Clearwater Centre, RMH  
Second Wednesday 08.00 AM - St. Dominic School, RMH  
Second Wednesday 11.00 AM - Westview Lodge, RMH  
Second Friday 11.00 AM - Ravines at Park Ave., RMH

**REQUESTS FOR USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES MUST BE APPROVED BY PASTOR AND BOOKED THROUGH OFFICE.**

### BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

Contact office if you want your child to be baptized in our parish. Preparation Class is mandatory. For more info, call office.

### CONFESSIONS

Rocky Mountain House - Every Saturday from 6.15 PM to 6.45 PM  
Evergreen/Caroline - after Sun. Masses ♦ Anytime by appointment

### MARRIAGE

Contact office if you want to celebrate Sacrament of Marriage in our parish. Preparation is mandatory. For more info, call office.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Friday in St. Matthew Church - Rocky Mountain House  
9.00 AM MASS ♦ 9.30 AM - 12.00 PM ADORATION  
Every First Tuesday of the month in St. Matthew Church - RMH  
6.30 PM MASS ♦ 7.00 PM - 8.00 PM HOLY HOUR ADORATION

PARISH WEBSITE → [WWW.SMPRMH.CA](http://WWW.SMPRMH.CA)



# MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**Fr. Leon will celebrate everyday Mass privately for the intentions requested by parishioners earlier, with some changes when we had more than one intention scheduled for the same day.**

**See the schedule of Mass intentions below.**

**Saturday March 21, 2020 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
Intention: For all parishioners  
**Sunday March 22, 2020 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
Intention: For the intentions of Pearl Krzyworuczka

**Monday March 23, 2020 – Weekday in Season of Lent**  
No Mass

**Tuesday March 24, 2020 – Weekday in Season of Lent**  
Intention: For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit  
**Wednesday March 25, 2020 – Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**  
Intention: + Bonnie Fandrick

**Thursday March 26, 2020 – Weekday in Season of Lent**  
Intention: For all the souls in purgatory  
**Friday March 27, 2020 – Weekday in Season of Lent**  
Intention: For a special intention

**Saturday March 28, 2020 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
Intention: + Len Kjorlien  
**Sunday March 29, 2020 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
Intention: For all parishioners

### MAR. 15, 2020 THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

**SUNDAY REG. COLLECTION:** RMH - \$966.80 \* Evergreen - \$190.00 \* Caroline - \$160.00  
**CHILDREN'S COLLECTION:** RMH - \$15.00 \* Evergreen - \$00.00 \* Caroline - \$00.00  
**MAINTENANCE FUND:** RMH - \$875.00 \* Evergreen - \$30.00 \* Caroline - \$80.00  
**TOGETHER WE SERVE:** RMH - \$00.00 \* Evergreen - \$00.00 \* Caroline - \$1,000.00

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONLINE DONATIONS!

MAR. 15, 2020

**REGULAR SUNDAY COLLECTION:**  
RMH - \$3,410.00 \* Evergreen - \$675.00 \* Caroline - \$1,190.00  
**COMPASSIONATE FUND:** Evergreen - \$200.00  
**TOGETHER WE SERVE:** RMH - \$137.50  
**MAINTENANCE FUND:** RMH - \$67.50



**The Knights of Columbus Council 6986 of Rocky Mountain House invite and encourage men of the parish to join our ranks. We welcome Catholic men 18 years of age and older to become a part of our council. There is no pressure to join however if you are interested in finding out more about the Knights of Columbus check out the knights of Columbus website <http://kofc.org/> ♦ There is an abundance of information and videos about the Knight of Columbus on the website. If you are interested in the prospect of joining or have questions, please feel free to reach out to one of our brother knights within the parish community. Thank you and God bless!**

Gary Donald - Grand Knight - Council 6986 Rocky Mountain House - 403.845.0692

### FOOD BANK DONATIONS!

We invite our parishioners to consider donation of food items for our local Food Bank. You can bring your donation during office hours. Collection boxes are placed in the church lobby.  
Thank you very much for your help! God bless!

