

Rocky Mountain House - St. Matthew

March 29, 2020 – 5th 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



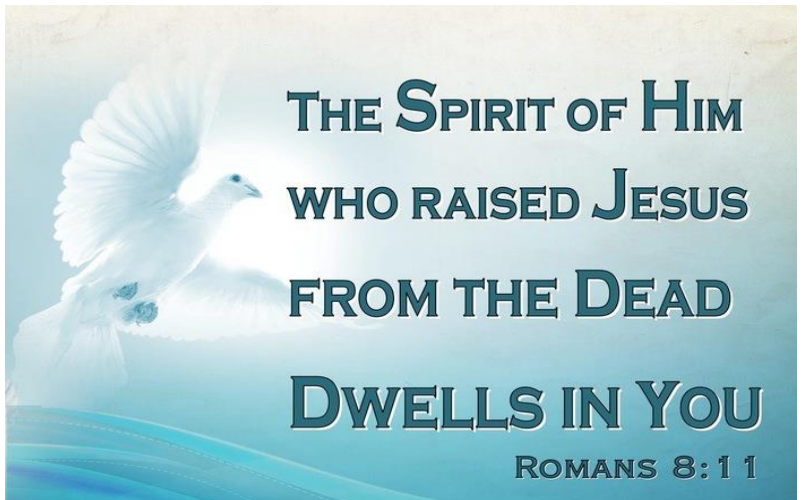
Bulletin QR Code

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE SUNDAY • *Ezekiel 37:12-14 * Romans 8:8-11 * John 11:1-45*

Those who believe in Jesus and walk in his ways will never die. Our worldly desires bind us up in burial cloths fashioned from our sins that block the will of God from our sight. By putting aside selfish ways and trusting in God’s love and mercy, we allow Christ to call us forth from death so that we might lead a resurrected life in the Spirit. ♦ **In the first reading**, God promises life and liberty to the Israelites. **In the second reading**, Saint Paul reminds the Romans that they must strive to overcome their sinful natures so as to live in union with Christ. **In the Gospel**, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead and makes the bold proclamation that those who believe in him will never die.

Today’s Gospel reading is filled with scenes of human frailties. First, in Bethany, we encounter the suffering surrounding a dying man. Lazarus is ill, and his sisters Martha and Mary are concerned about him and send a message to their friend, Jesus. The Scripture does not say that they asked Jesus to come, or that they asked him to cure their brother. Scripture tells us only that the message said, *Master, the one you love is ill.* • Second, we see threats to human safety. When Jesus announces plans to go back to Judea, where they had recently been, his disciples question his intentions, for the Jews in Judea had tried to stone him. But Jesus explained that Lazarus had died, and that they must go. • Third, we see people mourning someone they loved. We see Martha and Mary lamenting the loss of their brother, and we see Jewish people from neighboring towns who have come to comfort the two sisters. We even see Jesus, true God and true Man, filled with emotion, weeping at the loss of a friend. • Finally, we see confusion and misunderstanding. The disciples do not fully understand Christ’s mission, and even Thomas’ bold comment, *Let us also go to die with him*, is well-meaning, if naive. Jesus had also waited a few days before returning. He knows that this suffering will not end in death, but will simply be used *for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.* But Mary and Martha do not know this, and they bemoan his absence.

All of this human frailty - apparent in this story, and familiar to our own lives. But what changes all of it? Faith! Martha proclaims that she has come to believe that Jesus is *the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.* The Apostles and others hear Jesus say that he is *the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me even if he dies, will live.* Jesus has faith that the Father will hear him, so he calls Lazarus to *come out.* Christ raises his friend from the dead. Those who were present come to believe in him, too. • All this human suffering was turned around because of faith. Faith convinces us of Christ’s victory over death. Faith in the Resurrection rests on faith in God who is God of the Living (CCC 993). Today’s Gospel is not just about Lazarus’ resurrection, it’s about *ours.* Likewise, all our human suffering, losses and doubts are reimagined in light of our faith in Christ. This profound faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit, and Paul reminds us that the Spirit lives in us. With him, we can overcome anything, even death itself. The tomb is empty. Our hearts are full.



Dear Parishioners,

We live in quite a strange time. Who would expect pandemic? Self-isolation? Quarantine? Lock down in so many countries? And they tell us the worst is still ahead. I want to assure you of my prayers for all of you, especially when I celebrate daily Mass. Like Archbishop Smith I would like to ask each one of you to keep calm in this difficult time and keep hope for a better future for us all. Jesus promised His presence until the end of the world. I don't think we are there yet. Have hope! Life even now is good and future looks even better (if not here on earth it will be great after our death and resurrection). For special message from Archbishop Smith check our parish or diocesan website!

If anyone needs some help, please contact our parish office and we will try to do our best and help you. Please, help your neighbor and take care of yourself and your family.

As Christians, we turn to God in times of fear and uncertainty as we do in times of joy and celebration. Please join me in prayer as we pray for God's heart of love, mercy, and truth to dwell in us and show us how to face the challenges posed by coronavirus. Please, pray for the people who are infected with COVID-19; those who are facing a quarantine; for all people at higher risk of developing the disease; for leaders responsible for making decisions; for medical professionals, caregivers, and researchers responsible for fighting the new coronavirus; for families adjusting to new ways of life; for business owners and families facing financial stress; for grocery store workers and delivery drivers; for those who died; and for an end of this pandemic. There are some prayers included in this bulletin on page 3.

I encourage you to participate through the internet in the Masses offered by our parish, in our Archdiocese, in Canada and United States. Check our parish website for more information and links! God bless you all!

Fr. Leon

OUR PARISH OFFICE HOURS ARE NOT CHANGED!

Our parish office working hours are not changed. Office is opened from Noon to 4.00 PM from Monday to Friday. Check our parish website for any changes and updates.



PRIVATE ADORATION

DAILY • 3.00 PM - 4.00 PM

(Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday - Friday - Saturday - Sunday)

Adoration is not intended as public event. It is private with simple Exposition and Benediction, no public prayers and singing. We ask to exercise social distancing when in the church. Do not come if you are sick!



INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS

DAILY • 3.00 PM - 4.00 PM (DURING ADORATION)
(Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday - Friday - Saturday - Sunday)

Confessions are not intended as Penitential Service. Approach Fr. Leon during Adoration if you would like to go to confession. We ask to exercise social distancing when in the church. **Any other time by appointment.**



CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

MONDAY - TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY - FRIDAY • NOON - 4.00 PM

Our 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. We ask to exercise social distancing when in the church.



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!



SPECIAL APPEAL FOR DONATIONS



With the absence of regular Masses, we would like to highlight the option of Automatic Bank Withdrawal for regular and Together We Serve offerings. It's simple to implement, just fill in the form that is available on our parish website and confirm when you would like to start the deductions. Changes or cancellations can be made at any time but must be in writing. You can also donate to parish by bringing your donation to our parish office during office hours or you can donate securely and safely on our parish website.

A PRAYERS 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, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and walks of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses. Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. *Philippians 4:6*

Dear Lord, we lift to You our concern for people who are more likely than others to become severely ill from COVID-19 - the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty and, for many, preventive isolation from loved ones.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. *1 Peter 5:7*

God, as more people get sick, healthcare workers and first responders are working longer hours with fewer supplies and with more risk of contracting the new coronavirus themselves. Renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts. Bring Your protection upon them as they work with patients. Multiply their supplies so they have the protective items needed to stay safe on the job.

Inspire and invigorate the research doctors developing better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines to prevent it, and identify protocols to eliminate the disease's spread.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. *Psalms 23:4*

Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly - with each other and with the public - and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers ... *2 Corinthians 1:10-11*

Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home as businesses and schools close, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning.

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. *Psalms 57:1*



Pope Francis' Our Father Prayer - March 25, 2020

"As trustful children we turn to the Father. We do it every day, several times a day; but right now we wish to beg mercy for mankind, so sorely tried by the coronavirus pandemic. And we do this together, Christians of every Church and Community, of every tradition, of every age, language and nation.

We pray for the sick and their families; for health workers and those who help them; for the authorities, law enforcement agencies and volunteers; for the ministers of our communities. Today many of us celebrate the Incarnation of the Word in the womb of the Virgin Mary, when her humble and total "Behold" reflected the "Behold" of the Son of God. We too entrust ourselves, with full confidence, to the hands of God, and with one heart and one soul we pray: "Our Father..."

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



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Fr. Leon celebrates daily Masses privately for the intentions requested by parishioners. See the schedule of Mass intentions below.

Saturday March 28, 2020 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Intention: + Len Kjorlien

Sunday March 29, 2020 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Intention: For all parishioners

Monday March 30, 2020 – Weekday in Season of Lent

Intention: For the special intention

Tuesday March 31, 2020 – Weekday in Season of Lent

Intention: For the intentions of Pearl Krzyworuczka

Wednesday April 01, 2020 – Weekday in Season of Lent

Intention: Blessings & grace for Deacon Bernie Ouellette

Thursday April 02, 2020 – Weekday in Season of Lent

Intention: For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Friday April 03, 2020 – Weekday in Season of Lent

Intention: For all the souls in purgatory

Saturday April 04, 2020 – Palm (Passion) Sunday

Intention: For all members of our parish communities

Sunday April 05, 2020 – Palm (Passion) Sunday

Intention: For the intentions of Pearl Krzyworuczka

RECORDED MASSES ON PARISH WEBSITE

We invite parishioners to "watch" daily Masses celebrated by Fr. Leon in St. Matthew Church. Masses are published on the website daily around 11.00 AM. It's not a livestream.

ONLINE MASS



An Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.**

MAR. 22, 2020 THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

SUNDAY REG. COLLECTION: RMH - \$360.00 * Evergreen - \$00.00 * Caroline - \$00.00

MAINTENANCE FUND: RMH - \$45.00 * Evergreen - \$00.00 * Caroline - \$00.00

TOGETHER WE SERVE: RMH - \$75.00 * Evergreen - \$00.00 * Caroline - \$00.00