

Sacred Heart Parish

5113-49ave, Wetaskiwin, AB T9A OP9 sheart@incentre.net www.sacredheartchurch.ca



An inviting faith community building up the body of Christ.

October-Dedicated to *The Most Holy Rosary*

Sept 29th & 30th, 2018 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1st Reading: Numbers 11.25-29 2nd Reading: James 5.1-6 Gospel: Mark 9.38-43,45,47-48 Responsorial Psalm: The precepts of the Lord are right, and give joy to the heart.



God of grace, you pour out your wisdom on us and ask us to follow Jesus. As we encounter others, we have chances to see you at work in and through them. Help us to see and celebrate what others are doing in and through you. Guard our hearts and minds from

the dangers of trying to be you, and protect us from trying to control or own your grace. Amen.

Oct 6th & 7th, 2018 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Genesis 2.7ab, 15, 18-24 2nd Reading: Hebrews 2.9-11 Gospel: Mark 10.2-16 (longer) Mark 10.2-12 (shorter)

Responsorial Psalm: May the Lord bless us all the days of our .



New to Sacred Heart? Welcome! Registered?

We encourage everyone to register at the office, or fill out a Census Form from the foyer and drop it in the donation basket during weekend Masses.

Why register? *Family Sacramental Records *Income Tax Receipts *Emailed bulletins & notices

Check out the Archdiocese's Multiple Sources for News/Info & Resources to Help Live the Gospel

DIGITAL NEWS PORTAL: grandinmedia.ca delivered to your inbox every Thurs. "CATHOLIC-ALBERTA-NOW " GRANDIN

WEBSITE: www.caedm.ca

-Pastoral Scene -Archdiocese News Blog -Quid Novum -Weekly Electronic Bulletin with links

-Archbishop's Blog & - Daily Mass Readings SOCIAL MEDIA: www.youtube.com/

grandinmedia as well as Twitter & Facebook

Check it out! News from Rome

The Roman Observer www.osservatoreromano.va

Check out "Deacon's Corner" Radio Talk Show



Tune in to 89.1 FM Hawk Radio every Wed at 3:30pm to hear Deacon Leo Farley's half hour program covering topics and issues of our day from a Christian perspective.

Sacred Heart To Know Him, to Love Him, to Serve Him

For all News & Info go to: https://sh.starcatholic.ab.ca/

Sacred Heart Church—Wetaskiwin

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday—5:30PM

Sunday—9:30AM

Weekday Masses

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday—9:00am Thursday—6:30pm (none on Mondays)

1st Saturday Mass each month 9:00AM in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Hospital Mass 2nd Wed of each month @ 11am at the Hospital Chapel.

Community Mass usually the 1st Wed of each month at Madyson Manor at 10:30am

Reconciliation

Up until 10min before every Mass or by appointment

Adoration and Benediction of the **Blessed Sacrament**

 One hour adoration before every Mass. -1st Friday Adoration after the 9am Mass Rosary

Before every Mass.

Our Lady of Seven Sorrows - Maskwacis

Sunday 11:30AM.

Thursdays & Fridays 12 Noon

Adoration Thursdays 10:00am—12 noon Phone: 780-585-3920 olss_@xplornet.com

St. Theresa's -Ma-Me-O Beach

Sundays — 10:00am.

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac **Deacon Leo Farley** Office: 780-352-2365

Fax: 780-352-7103

Pastor's Contact # 780-352-4513 Deacon's Contact # 780-362-0799 **Part Time Staff**

Brigid B. (Office of Communications) Maria C. (Pastoral Coordinator) Christine U. (Office of Finance)

Jose M. (Maintenance)

Appointments

To set up an appointment with Fr. Nilo, please call the parish during office hours

Regular Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday 8:30—4:00pm

Contacts

Parish Council Chairperson Kerry Klontz

Catholic Women's League Marilyn Ouellette

Knights of Columbus SH Council #6839 John Tomkinson

Fr. Joseph MacDonald Assembly #2963 Jeff Schmidt

Sacred Heart School 4419-52 Ave T9A 2X7 Verna Sand—Principal (Office: 780-352-5533) verna.sand@starcatholic.ab.ca

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick

In emergencies, any day at any hour, please contact Father's Emergency Cell # 780-352-1524

Baptisms -take place during the regular scheduled weekend Masses.

For emergencies or exceptional circumstances other arrangements will be considered.

-Parents wishing to baptize their 1st child are required to take the Baptism Preparation course offered one Saturday a month, 8:30 to 12 noon except December and summer months Requirements for Baptism include:

-birth certificate

—Confirmation Certificates of Sponsors Please contact the parish office to begin preparations. Baptisms can not be booked until all paperwork is submitted.

Marriages —Please contact the parish office immediately after your engagement to prepare for your marriage. Mandatory interview 6 months prior to wedding and marriage preparation course is obligatory.

First Holy Communion/Confirmation

please call parish office for classes and dates.

Holy Orders— visit www.caedm.ca/ PastoralOffices/Vocations/ VocationstothePriesthood.aspx

Communion for the Sick If you are hospitalized, please be sure to identify yourself as Catholic when being admitted. If a family member or friend is in the hospital or homebound please contact the parish office or leave a message.

Hospital Regular visits each weekendusually Saturday mornings.

Seniors' & private homes

Regular Visits to are made immediately after both weekend masses.

Currently in Need of Volunteers

<u>Funerals</u>

For preparations, please call the office

Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Please find a replacement ahead of time if unable to serve at scheduled time -Please arrive 20min early to check in; the Sacristan may find a replacement if you have not arrived 10 prior to Mass starting

Oct 6, 2018, SAT 5:30pm Sacristan: Helené Justus A/V Ministry: Michael Tratch Rosary - Mary McLaughlin TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Lectors	Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Music Ministry	Ushers	Greeters	
Sharon Aney	*Any Altar Server	Jeff Schmidt	Sacred Heart	Gary Francoeur	Ernie & Agnes Patrie	
Russ Aney	present may serve	Julliette Huberdeau	Choir	Rosario Huberdeau		
	for this Mass*	Homebound Ministry				
		Sue O'Connor				

Oct. 7, 2018, SUN 9:30am Sacristan: Ron Tratch A/V Ministry: Henry Effon Rosary - needed

Porter: George Chrunik Children's Liturgy of the Word - Cathy King & Diane Labonté

Lectors	Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Music Ministry	Ushers	Greeters	Hospitality
June Boyda	*Any Altar Server	Robert Labonté	Saint Josephs	Tony Greenidge	Marilyn McConnell	Eddie & Ursula And
Theresa Doherty	present may serve	Terin Labonté	Covenant	Tom Bukkems	Jean Lamsen	
	for this Mass*	Joe Audet	Keepers	George Ollenberger		
		Angela Greenidge		Virginia Fernandez		
		Yolanda Cabangbang				
		Andrea Rabel				
		Homebound Ministry				
		* John McConnell*				
		* Danny Gavan*				

Oct. 13, 2018, SAT 5:30pm Sacristan: Gisele Schilling A/V Ministry: Michael Tratch Rosary – Don Schilling TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Lectors	Altar Servers	Holy Communion	Music Ministry	Ushers	Greeters	
Nicole Bustin	*Any Altar Server	Don Schilling	open	Ken Lee	Grace French	
Rose Engbloom	present may serve	Linda Webber		Marg Lee		
	for this Mass*	Homebound Ministry				
		Peggy Henson				

Oct. 14, 2018, SUN 9:30am Sacristan: George Chrunik A/V Ministry: Ray Tatlow Portor: Tom Bukkoms Children's Liturgy of the Word - Cora Costales & Resomarie Port

Rosary - Irma Kil

Porter: Tom Bukkems	S Children's Liturgy of the word – Cora Costales & Rosemanie Portoza					
Lectors	Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Music Ministry	Ushers	Greeters	Hospitality
Ron Tratch	*Any Altar Server	Rita Anne Fuss	Kerry Klontz	James Woitt	Eddie Ano	Knights of
Lynn James Karasiuk	present may serve	Chad LaForge		Gary Bishop	Ursula Ano	Columbus
	for this Mass*	Jennifer LaForge		Adolfo Cruz		
		Theresa Doherty		Curtis Fuss		
Feeling called to Serve Christine Ungstad						

in your Faith Community?

Volunteers are still needed for Homebound Ministry. Please call the office for more information for this and other ministries.

Maria Chrunik **Homebound Ministry** *Laura Kennedy *

*Maria Chrunik *

The Pope's Universal Intention for October:

Evangelization: The Mission of Religious—That consecrated religious men and women may bestir themselves, and be present among the poor, the marginalized, and those who have no voice.

Answer Archbishop Smith's call to spend more time in the word. Check these out And Spread the Word!

Archbishop Smith's Pastoral Letter entitled Living in the Word of God invites us all to renew our focus on Scripture as we answer the call of the Holy Father Pope Francis. The complete letter can be

'HEAR the Word of God and DO It'

The Bible This book will change your life... ..But you have to read it.

found at caedm.ca/letter & www.sacredheartchurch.ca. A portion from the letter follows: When we have encountered Jesus Christ and been transformed by his

mercy and love, we naturally want to tell others about it and invite them to be one with us in a community of joy! The making known to others of what God has done for the world in Jesus Christ, and for each of us in our own individual lives, is what is meant by giving witness.

Devotions in 140 A bite-size reflection by the Archbishop from selected readings from the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time: I can only come to know who Jesus is by pondering the Word.

THE ARCHDIOCESE IN ON SOCIAL MEDIA:Quid Novum | Facebook | Twitter | YouTube | Vimeo | Grandin Media



Open Book: In the latest video from this 2-4 min video series Professor Saulnier answers the question, What is the New Testament? www.youtube.com/grandinmedia

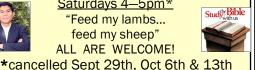


MINUTE IN THE WORD—Daily video reflections by local priests will return in the Fall. Past ones can still be viewed at www.youtube.com/user/ EdmontonArchdiocese

JOIN FR NILO FOR BIBLE STUDY



Saturdays 4—5pm* "Feed my lambs... feed my sheep" ALL ARE WELCOME!



KÍdS' / Family BULLETÍN Variety of scripture activities to help kids get steeped in the Word of God. learn about the lives of Saints, and more. Pick up a copy in the Foyer or at the Youth Bulletin Board!



Prayer and Insights for the Sunday Gospel Readings. Go to sacredheart-



churchwetaskiwin.formed.org Register with Code: 7X4XFP

October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 26TH SUN IN ORDINARY TIME Fr. Nilo Away- Holy Land Pilgrimage William "Bill" Wickland+/Rosalina Wickland 9:30 AM-10:30 AM MASS SH 10:00 AM-11:00 AM St. Theresa's Mameo Beach 11:30 AM-12:30 PM OLSS Mass	CWL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE MONTH Fr. Nilo Away- Holy Land Pilgrimage Jose scheduled to clean kitchen floors this week Office Closed ST THERESA'S FEAST DAY YC PRESALE TICKETS TODAY ONLY - \$90.00	9am Mass Cancelled Emma Hamm/Tailfieu Family Fr. Nilo Away- Holy Land Pilgrimage GUARDIAN ANGELS FEAST DAY NO MASS 10:30 AM-12:00 PM Al-Anon 12:00 PM Al-Anon 12:00 PM-1:00 PM AA 7:00 PM-8:30 PM RCIA & RCIC	Fr. Nilo Away- Holy Land Pilgrimage NO MASS Peter Ungstad/Chris Ungstad	Fr. Nilo Away- Holy Land Pilgrimage NO MASS Sean Maisonneuve/Joes & Sharon Audet 6:00 PM–8:00 PM Singing Priests' Concert 7:00 PM–8:00 PM CWL Meeting	5 1st Friday Mass / School Thanksgiving Mass at the Church Fr. Lacar -Mass Fr. Nilo Away- Holy Land Pilgrimage Invocation to the Holy Spirit 9:30 AM-10:30 AM School Thanksgiving Mass at Church 10:30 AM-4:00 PM Addoration	6 5:30pm Ron Beakhouse+/Beakhouse Family 9am Bishop Family in Thanksgiving Bible Study cancelled Fr. Lacar - Mass Fr. Nilo Away- Holy Land Pilgrimage 9:00 AM-10:00 AM 1st Saturday Mass 5:30 PM-6:30 PM Mass
7 27TH SUN IN ORDINARY TIME Fr. Nilo Away Gloria Gamez/In Thanksgiving OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY 9:30 AM-10:30 AM MASS SH 10:00 AM-11:00 AM St. Theresa's Mameo Beach 11:30 AM-12:30 PM OLSS Mass	8 Felicity Joosten/Taillieu Family Fr. Nilo Away Office Closed THANKSGIVING DAY	9 Ashley Rabbit/Joe & Sharon Audet Fr. Nilo Away NO MASS 10:30 AM-12:00 PM Al-Anon 12:00 PM-1:00 PM AA	10 Fr. Nilo Away Mary Clare & Family/R. McCallum NO MASS 10:00 AM-11:00 AM Prayer Shawls 10:30 AM-11:30 AM Madyson Manor Para Liturgy 7:00 PM-8:30 PM RCIA & RCIC	11 Fr. Nilo Away NO MASS Regis Lemieux+/R. McCallum	12 Fr. Nilo Away NO MASS Vincent Maisonneuve/Joe & Sharon Audet	13 Bible Study cancelled Floyd Katheder+/Dina & Dan Lukawy Fr. Nilo Away 5:30 PM-6:30 PM Mass
28TH SUN IN ORDINARY TIME Fr. Nilo Away Pro Populo 9:30 AM-10:30 AM MASS SH 10:00 AM-11:00 AM St. Theresa's Mameo Beach 10:30 AM-12:30 PM K of C Pancake Breakfast	15 Fr. Nilo Away Office Closed	16 Fr. Nilo Away NO MASS 10:30 AM-12:00 PM Al-Anon 12:00 PM-1:00 PM AA 7:00 PM-8:30 PM RCIA & RCIC	17 NO MASS ST MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE 6:00 PM—7:00 PM Finance/Maintenance /Stewarship	Regis Lemieux+/Velma Rathwell ST LUKE 6:30 PM-7:30 PM Mass 7:15 PM-9:00 PM PPC Meeting 7:30 PM-8:30 PM Knights of Columbus - By the Lake Park	19 Regis Lemieux+/Val, Anna & Family 9:00 AM-10:00 AM Mass	20 Regis Lemieux+/Beakhouse Family Deacons Formation Weekend 8:30 AM-12:30 PM Baptismal Prep 9:00 AM-11:00 AM 1st Holy Communion Class 5:30 PM-6:30 PM Mass

Support Pro-Life and Learn how to Ballroom Dance at the same time!

Experienced instructors Mike and Michele Barter will teach the basics of how to waltz, rumba, foxtrot, jive.—a skill to last you a lifetime! Date/Time: Sat Oct 20th; workshop starts @10am; potluck supper at 6pm with evening dance to follow until 10pm

Location: Bashaw Agricultural Society Main Hall. Cost: \$50/couple, \$80/family.

For more info see poster on church bulletin board, or contact Rebecca Jacobson—ph(403) 741-2636 or email:rebeccajssf@icloud.com *Please bring a bag lunch and something for the potluck.

Profits will go to Camrose Pro-Life, so round up your friends and come on out! Please RSVP by Oct. 13.



October 26-28th, 2018

www.sacredheartchurch.ca Sacred Heart Church 5113-49 Ave Wetaskiwin, Alberta 780.352.2365 ocated at

Program Initial

Registration Session One - God's Love

Saturday 9:00am

Session Three—New Life Session Two - Salvation Continental Breakfast

2:00 Lunch (provided)

Session Four—God's Gift

free recreat time 4:00pm

Reconciliation Available

Mass 5:30pm

6:45pm

Supper (provided) 7:30pm

Session Rive—Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Sunday 9:30am

Mass

Session Six Personal Growth 11:30am

12:00pm Lunch (provided)

12.30pm Session Seven—Transformation 2:00pm

closing remarks

(program subject to slight modifications)

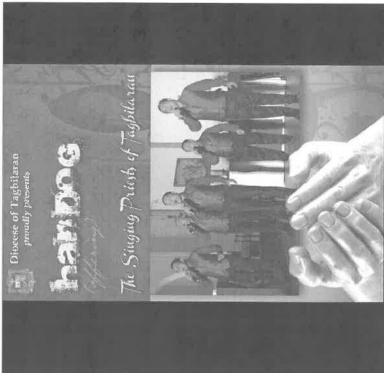
become Alive in Christ! Watch your Faith

Hours 9:30am-4:30pm Tuesday—Friday

780 352-2365

Oct 19th 9:30 - 3:30pm Grace Lutheran Church \$20 incl lunch UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA: IT AFFECTS ALL OF US UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

SOLITARY REFINEMENT Oct 27th at 7pm ages 13+ Calvary Baptist Church FREE Admission A play about the persecuted church



Thursday, October 4th, 2018/6:00pm Suggested Donation for Ticket: \$20.00 In Cooperation with Sacred Heart Parish Wetaskiwin available at the Parish Office 780.352-2365 5113-49 ave, Wetaskiwin, Ab Sacred Heart Parish

Reflections for the Sunday Readings

September 30, 2018 - 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, Year B: Grace can be lived and received, but not controlled or owned. How often do we get caught up in trying to be or play God? In the first reading and the Gospel. God's people get riled up because other people are doing God's work! God is in control, so we do not have to be. If we keep our eyes focused on what God is asking of us, we can have joy when we encounter others doing the same. Irritation at other disciples or people doing good is often a sign something is wrong with me, rather than them. The second reading from James demonstrates the long-term consequences of self-righteous attempts to own grace: the riches spoil and we are left empty-handed. This week, when you find yourself irritated at how others go about living, ask yourself if you want to have your selfrighteousness or more abundant life. See if the question allows you to see someone else with more love, and to receive more grace yourself. (from Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops)

October 4th - 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B: Let no man separate what God has joined.

The great sign of the social nature of men and women is marriage, in which the two of them become one body, the two shall become as one. Another sign is the Eucharist, for as Paul says in the Communion Antiphon: we. though many, are one body, for we all share in the one loaf and in the one cup. Marriage and Eucharist are signs of sharing lives and living together. The unity of humankind is shattered every day by the many scourges of injustice: racism, sexism, poverty, hunger, homelessness, war. We are constantly violating the fun-



A Cord of 3 Strands is not easily broken Eclelesiastics 4.12

damental principle: let no man separate what God has joined. God has joined us in a society of brothers and sisters because it is not good for us to be alone: let no one separate that society through collusion in

injustice. (by Gerald Darring)

1ST HOLY COMMJUNION



Bimonthly classes Saturdays 9-11am beginning Come be renewed and refreshed! October 26th -28th LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

Registration: \$50.00 includes:

7 speakers and meals! Brochures with Registration forms in the office and foyer! "Renew in our day, O Lord, your wonders as in a new Pentecost..." Pope John Paul II

JOURNEYING IN FAITH

WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE CATHOLIC CHURC **REALLY TEACHES?**

Who is Jesus? What is the history of Christianity?

RCIA (Adults) & (RCIC) Child 7yrs+ PLEASE NOTE SCHEDULE CHANGE: 7 pm Weekly but Alternating Wed-Tues Oct 2, 10,16, 24 and 30



Oct 20th

special place in the Sacred Heart of God. The LORD Himself commands: "Honour your father and your mother." She is to be hon-

Rosary, which is the compendium of the Gospel. All the mysteries of the Rosary are taken and rooted in the Bible. I highly encourage our parishioners to participate in praying the Holy Rosary before Mass, if not in our homes. Fr. Peyton once said: "The family that prays together stays together." Literally, likened to the beads of the Rosary so close and united, bridged as one, we are one with God through our Lady.

grace and generous in dispensing Divine graces necessary for our salvation. Let as implore the intercession of Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy Rosary for world peace, for the healing within the Church, for the conversion of hardened sinners and for the salvation of everyone. Let us implore the blessing of our Lord through the maternal care and intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. God bless you richly!

Fr. Nilo Macapinlac, pastor

WEEKEND DONATIONS

Sunday Donations-General Fund Sept 15/16 \$ 1882.50

Sept 22/23 \$ 2894.25 **Maintenance**

Sept 15/16 & 22/23 \$ 430.00

Flower Donations / Intentions:

Sept 29/30—Julita Lim Oct 6/7 —Len & Delores DeBlois/Anniversary

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

No Weekday Masses except 1st Fri Oct 5th at 9:30am No Hospital Mass in October

Oct 4th—Singing Priests Concert @ 6pm

Oct 10th-Para-Liturgy @ Madyson Manor 10:30am

Did you Know?



Fr. Nilo has authored a now published Novena Prayer

book: "St. Kateri Tekakwitha: The First

North American Aboriginal Saint". BLESSED HOPE Publishing.

Watch for Details of Official Book Launch in October!

DID YOU KNOW?

Our Annual Insurance Premium for the Church and Rectory coming due Oct 31st will be approximately \$15, 500.



My dear friends and beloved parishioners, Grace and peace be with you all this Fall!

In this month of October, we venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary, "Queen of the Most Holy Rosary". In Sacred Scripture or the Holy Bible, in the Pauline language, she is called "the New Eve", "mother of many nations" and indeed, she is blessed among women, full of grace. The Torah of the Jewish People had

recognized Mary as the daughter of Zion, the Koran of the Islam

mentions her several times and she is known as "Mariam" which means "Star of the Sea." As we venerate Mary, the mother of our Lord, she is also our mother because at the foot

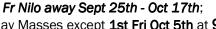
of the Cross, she stood there and Jesus declared to St. John, who represents not only the college of the apostles but the entire Church, saying: "Son, behold your mother!" As Jesus inaugurated the new family and the reign of the Kingdom of God, the ever-Virgin Mary has a

oured above all earthly parents and authorities. The Blessed Virgin Mary has the special place not only in our Church but worthy of our veneration and honour as indeed she is the perfect disciple of the Lord. It is unthinkable for a follower of Christ to be a faithful disciple of our Lord without respect and due honour to Mary, the mother of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!

This month of October, we pray and contemplate the sacred mysteries of the Most Holy

The Angel Gabriel declared, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" Truly, she is full of

Ad Jesum per Mariam,



Oct 2nd—Journeying in Faith / RCIA & RCIC at 7pm

Oct 5th - 1st Fri Mass 9:30: Adoration 10:30-4pm

Oct 6th—1st Sat Mass at 9am celebrated with Fr Lacar

Oct 6th & Oct 13h—Bible Study cancelled

Vital Word:

A new video series from Grandin Media

Can Scripture tell us anything relevant to modern life? That's the challenge being taken up by *Vital Word*, a new series of video blogs ('vlogs') that aim to support viewers in reading and following Scripture by linking passages to current issues or events affecting Catholics and the Church as whole.

The series is being published weekly on

Grandin Media's Youtube channel.

In this first episode of *Vital Word*, Archbishop Smith addresses the sexual abuse crisis through the lens of Scripture:



Eyes Open with Archbishop Smith

"Facing abuse means asking tough questions, investigating, involving lay experts"

Archbishop Smith

By Andrew Ehrkamp, Grandin Media September 17, 2018

Betrayal. Hopelessness. Outrage. These are some of the sentiments as Catholics read and hear about the growing sex abuse scandal — and allegations of cover-ups — in the U.S. and around the world.

To that, Edmonton Archbishop Richard Smith says the Church must embrace reform and do whatever it takes to help and heal victims. At the same time, the Church should not be defined by individual actions of some its leaders.

"This perfect storm leaves us all reeling, as we deal with shock, anger, shame and confusion," Archbishop Smith said in a video message published Sept. 16. "With eyes wide open to Christ, we see clearly the need for reform and our call to face it resolutely, yes; yet we also see that the Church is simply not to be defined by the sins and crimes of some of her leaders, however egregious."

"Here is the particular grace for which we need to pray right now: to remain with the Church and to do so with our eyes opened; opened wide. They need to be opened wide by Christ first of all so that we continue to recognize his presence with us and to retain that as our principal focus."

The Archbishop made the comments in the first of a new series of video blogs aimed at providing support in reading and following Scripture by linking passages to current events affecting Catholics and the Church as whole. The series, titled Vital Word, is being published weekly on the Grandin Media Youtube channel.

Archbishop Smith and his brother bishops from Alberta and Northwest Territories had issued a pastoral letter in August pledging to listen to victims and to renew diocesan abuse prevention efforts. But this was the first time he specifically addressed the growing abuse scandal in the U.S. and its tentacles to the Vatican. It came just days after the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, met with Pope Francis to discuss the crisis.

A Pennsylvania grand jury report last month detailed sexual abuse cases in six dioceses and the announcement of credible allegations of child sexual abuse committed by Archbishop Theodore McCarrick, the disgraced former cardinal-archbishop of Washington.

Other reports and investigations of abuse are ongoing in the U.S. and in other countries including Australia and Germany.

Eyes Open with Archbishop Smith continued . . .

"Right now, we are seeing the presence of evil in our midst," Archbishop Smith said in his video message. "And the evil we see is very great indeed. How are we to look at it? First of all, we need to see and face squarely the immeasurable harm that this evil has done to victims of abuse."

The Pennsylvania report detailed claims of abuse of minors by clergy going back 70 years. Though the report identified more than 1,000 sex abuse claims, only two cases resulted in prosecutions because the statute of limitations had expired in the majority of cases.

To which, the Archbishop noted that the cases may be old but the harm is still fresh.

"Yes, we know that the accounts brought to our attention by the grand jury report are decades old; yes, we know that the way these things were understood and handled in the past is not the way they are dealt with now; but for the victim, the harm that was caused, even if it was a long while ago, has effects that are lifelong," Smith said. "So, the gaze we direct toward them must be with eyes filled with compassion, and expressive of a readiness to do whatever needs to be done to help and heal."

At the same time, Archbishop Smith said the Church must be held accountable.

"We also have to have eyes wide open to the causes of all this. This will mean a readiness to ask direct and tough questions; it will mean launching investigations where needed, and these inquiries will need to involve laypersons with the expertise to do these sorts of things," Archbishop Smith said.

"These questions and investigations will enable our eyes to be wide open to the truth, to the facts, and this in turn will help us to see clearly the way ahead."

Pope Francis himself has been accused of ignoring sanctions against Archbishop McCarrick imposed by Francis' predecessor, Pope Emeritus Benedict. The allegations were made by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, a former papal representative in the U.S.

In his video message, Archbishop Smith said sentiments of betrayal and hopelessness are relatable in Scripture to the two disciples who — unbeknownst to them at first — encountered Jesus on the road to Emmaus after His crucifixion and death.

"We are experiencing the same thing right now. The Church is established by Christ himself as the place, the agent, of hope. Yet, for many it has been experienced as the place of betrayal, precisely by some of our 'chief priests and leaders,'" Smith said. "This betrayal has been felt most keenly and painfully by abuse victims and by their families."

Archbishop Smith said there is the need to focus on the good done by religious men and women, Catholic schools, social services and hospitals and the clergy "who haven't done any of the terrible things we've heard about, who are just as rocked as everyone else by this news."

The actions of a few should not define the Church, he said.

"The Church is the people formed by the encounter with the Risen Christ, who remains with us, who heals us, reforms us, and strengthens us as we walk along the road that leads not away from him but towards any one in need and, ultimately toward the heavenly Jerusalem, our eternal home."

-With files from Catholic News Service

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