

## PASTORAL LETTER STRATEGIES

In the fall of 2017, Archbishop Richard Smith of Edmonton released his Pastoral Letter entitled "Living in the Word of God." In the letter, Archbishop Smith asked us to do all that we possibly can to give the Word of God a place of prominence in our lives. There are some approaches that we are already taking in our parish. At every Sunday Mass, there are four Scriptural passages that are proclaimed to us (including the psalm). We begin every parish meeting with a devotion, a time for a Scripture reading, reflection and prayer. Examples of the Grace before Meals and excerpts from the Archbishop's letter are regularly re-printed in our parish bulletin. Our parish has also held some sessions of Bible studies, an opportunity for us to grow in our knowledge and understanding of the Word of God.

In October of 2018, Father Paul Moret served as the Retreat Master for a Parish Mission in Sylvan Lake (with involvement from the Rimbey parishioners as well) on the theme of "Hearing the Word of God."

We also encourage you to do all that you can to give the Word of God a place of prominence in your home. We ask you to set up a PRAYER CORNER in your home with a Bible, a crucifix, a rosary, a candle, statues and other religious articles that will give the area the feeling of a "mini-chapel." This can be a special place (or even an entire room if possible) in your home where you can go to feel close to God.

We ask you to pray the Grace before Meals. We ask you to set aside some time for GOD TALK with your family where you can reflect upon your day and see the places where God was talking to you and trying to

guide you. We also recommend that you make an effort to pray together as a married couple and even as a family, keeping in mind the old adage that goes: “The family that prays together stays together.”

Perhaps you could look at ways of praying with devotions in your home. Some sources that might help you with daily devotions include:

Bishop Robert Barron ([www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org))

The Word Among Us ([wau.org](http://wau.org))

[www.Jesuitprayer.org](http://www.Jesuitprayer.org)

<https://dailycatholicgospel.com/sign-up-daily-gospel>

Our Daily Bread ([info@odb.ca](mailto:info@odb.ca)) (1-519-956-2400)

Living Faith ([www.livingfaith.com](http://www.livingfaith.com)) (1-800-246-7390)

Living with Christ ([livingwithchrist.ca](http://livingwithchrist.ca)) (1-800-387-7164)

Give Us This Day ([GUTD.net](http://GUTD.net)) or (1-888-259-8470)

Matthew Kelly ([info@dynamiccatholic.com](mailto:info@dynamiccatholic.com))

Reflections from Archbishop Smith can regularly be found on the website for the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton.

These are only some of the resources that are available for daily devotions. If you need some help in navigating your way through the websites, please contact us at the parish office and we will find someone to help you.

In response to the call from Archbishop Smith, please do all that you can to make the Word of God alive and active in your heart, in your home and in our parish. Thank you.