

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish



Pastor: Fr. Mitchell Fidyka

Associate Pastor: Fr. Joy Vadakkan, CFIC

Permanent Deacons: Randy Abele, Chris Ashdown

210 Haddow Close, Edmonton, AB, T6R 2P3

Office: **780.434.6313** Rectory: 780.434.9483, Pastor's Cell: (emergency only) 780.907.7782

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Website: <https://stm.caedm.ca> Email: webmaster@stmparish.com

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Mondays 7:00 pm
Tuesday 7:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am
Thursday 9:00 am
Friday 9:00 am
Saturday 9:00 am

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am
10:00 am
12:00 pm
6:00 pm

CONFESSION

45 minutes before weekday Masses
Saturday 4:00 pm

ADORATION

Tuesday 6:00 pm
1st Fridays 9 am - 3 pm

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT:

Pastoral Care

- Sacrament of the Sick: any day at any hour
- Regular pastoral visits can be arranged for the homebound

Baptism

- See Baptismal brochure in stand or look on website
- Parents & godparents are required to take preparation classes

Marriages

- Schedule an appointment before you book any other facilities
- An approved pre-marriage course is required
- A minimum of 4 months of notice is required

First Reconciliation and First Communion

- For baptized children 7 years of age and older
- Preparation classes are required
- See green sacrament brochure for details

Confirmation

- For those 11 years of age and older who have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion
- Preparation classes are required.

RCIA and RCIA - Adapted for Children (8-15 yrs.)

- For those who wish to learn more about the Catholic faith or who wish to become Catholic.
- Classes start each fall.

PARISH STAFF:

PASTORAL STAFF

Family Coordinator: Monica Bober
Youth Coordinator: Sara Dmitri
Sacrament Assistant: Kathleen Eistetter
Sacrament Assistant: Diane Middleton
Music Coordinator: Johanna Dietrich
RCIA Coordinator: Darlene Smigelski
RCIA & Sacrament Asst. Olivia Dias

OFFICE STAFF

Business Administrator: Christopher Snaith
Receptionist: Shannon Van Soest
Interim Bookkeeper: Joey Kolinsky
Custodian: Arthur Connick
Evening Receptionist: Gideon Boyle

**To email the staff, please visit the [Contact](#) page of our website for details.*

December 2nd, 2018
1st Sunday of Advent

“Be alert at all times.”

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new liturgical year for the Church. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of expectant preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation and justice.

Today’s Gospel, on this first Sunday of the new liturgical year, urges us to be ready, at any moment, to greet the Son of Man. We are asked to be “awake” and always be prepared. The Lord is coming. We are not afraid; He is our good Master. We welcome Him.

St. Thomas More is accepting donations for *Poinsettias*.

If you wish, the donation can be made
in memory of a loved one.



The suggested donation is \$20. You can drop off your donation at the parish office or place your donation in the collection basket in an envelope marked “POINSETTIA.” Please print the name clearly, if your donation is in memory of a loved one.



2019 Sunday Missals can be purchased after weekend Masses at the K of C table at the front entrance of the church or from the Parish office.

All bulletin items and announcements should be directed to:
 stm.secretary@stmparish.com Deadline: **Tuesday noon**

Mass Intentions for the Week

Mon.	Dec. 3	7:00pm	Melanio Pontrias, Agapito Plando, and Dionisio Ong Rikki Mae & Marvi Mae & Rica Mae
Tues.	Dec. 4	7:00pm	Thanksgiving to Sr. Rita for favours received +Lloyd Malyk
Wed.	Dec. 5	9:00am	+Joseph Kuruvila +Helen Forest
Thurs.	Dec. 6	9:00am	+Lydia Erickson Baldoz family
Fri.	Dec. 7	9:00am	Pat Coe +All Souls in Purgatory
Sat.	Dec. 8	9:00am 5:00pm	+Armand Baril Jeanette Amyotte +Gordon Sarafinchan +Isobel Mooney
Sun.	Dec. 9	8:30am 10:00am 12:00pm 6:00pm	Iris Calder +Jadwiga Keller +Teresita Puyaoan +Adolarata DeCesare

formed.org

This week our suggestion is a 47 minute audio ***The Big Question: God Are You There?*** Its style is a balance between entertaining and intellectual and shows that God’s existence can be grasped by reason. We must all wrestle with the big question: God are you there?



LUNCH FOR BISSELL CENTRE

Thank you for your tremendous response for the appeal to provide lunch at the Bissell Centre on December 9th. I was amazed to have the entire list completed after just one Mass. Never in my pastoral life have I experienced such a generous spirit. What a response! You even waited patiently in line to sign up. This demonstrates your concern for those that are less fortunate and your willingness to participate in parish projects. Thank you so very much, keep up the good works and God bless.



Fr. Mitch

Sound System was probably the number one issue in our parish survey. If the congregation cannot hear, it is a major problem. The present sound system is inadequate for a building this size; it is antiquated and, to put it simply, does not work. It is in constant need of parts, upgrades or repairs - none of which solve the problem. We will replace it completely with a modern system that is designed specifically for churches; several churches in Edmonton such as St. Andrew, St Joseph’s Basilica, Resurrection and others are presently using it. It has to be a good system; the \$65,000 cost is in the budget for next year. We have made this a priority and hope to have it installed by Christmas.

The **Annual Advent Mass** with **Archbishop Richard Smith** will be

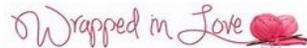


held on Saturday, December 15th at 9:30am
 at Holy Cross Cemetery and Mausoleum,
 14611 Mark Messier Trail.

Featuring: Choir from Annunciation Parish.
 Light refreshments after Mass provided by Park Memorial.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you know someone who would like to be wrapped in God’s Love? Consider giving them a prayer shawl. At present there is a good selection for babies, children and adults. Contact the office or Linda 780-988-9229 or Maureen 780-435-4917.



***Advent Penitential Service* : December 19th 7:00pm**

***Christmas Eve Masses* : December 24th
 4:00pm 6:00pm 8:00pm 10:00pm 12:00am (Midnight)**

***Christmas Day Masses* : December 25th
 10:00am 12:00pm (Noon)**

Nov. 25

Regular Sunday Collection

\$16,892.00

TWS (Together We Serve)

\$265.00



CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

Please join us on **December 8 at 9:00 am** for Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

We will be honoring our  most Blessed Mother that morning by having the opportunity to consecrate (or reconsecrate) our lives to Jesus through His Most Blessed Mother Mary. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to dedicate (or rededicate) your lives to our Lord Jesus on this very important feast day of Our Lady.

Rosary at 8:40 am. Coffee to follow the celebration.



'Keep Christ in Christmas' Poster and Nativity Scene Making Contest Year 2!

The Knights of Columbus, Fr. Bonner Council is inviting families and children of St. Thomas More participate in the organization's international "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign. There are two main contests - poster making and Nativity Scene making.

Poster Contest

The poster contest is open to youth ages 5-14. Poster entries with approximate size of 11-inch X 17 inch (using any color, charcoal, chalk, pastel) can be submitted to the St. Thomas More Church youth office or Knights of Columbus grocery card desk.

The winning entries will serve as the basis for a series of new Christmas posters that encourage a deeper understanding of the holiday.

Parish Sacrament News:

1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion are offered to children in grade 2. What an exciting year for these young children to celebrate **TWO** sacraments. See the green brochures in your school office or STM parish for details.



DROP-IN REGISTRATION.

Drop in to St. Thomas More parish to register your child for the two sacraments.

Drop-in registration will occur from 9:00-11:00 a.m. on the **1st Saturday of each month** (Oct. thru Feb.).

Register your child at **the parish on the 1st Saturday of the month**. Please contact Kathleen at the Parish for further details.

The next *Marriage Preparation* program at St. Thomas More will take place **March 15, 16 and 17, 2019.**



For information email:

stm.marriagepreparation@gmail.com

Please indicate your names, wedding date and location when emailing for information.

Other Marriage Preparation programs available: Catholic Engaged Encounter: <http://ceewest.com/communities/edmonton/>

On-line Marriage Preparation:

<http://caedm.ca/PastoralParishServices/LifeandFamily/MarriagePreparation/MarriagePreparationPrograms/OtherPrograms/OnlineMarriagePreparation>

THE GIVING TREE is a St. Thomas More Advent tradition.



As a parish, we take time to share our good fortune with the women and children of the **Lurana Shelter**, a refuge for those fleeing from family violence. The angels and stars hanging on the Giving Tree have items that are needed by Lurana Shelter (a list of needed items is also posted by the tree). Each family is encouraged to pick an angel or star from the tree and return the **new** item requested during the following weekend of Advent. **Do not wrap any of the gifts.** Giving gift cards is strongly encouraged (suggested maximum amount per card is \$25) and, grocery gift cards purchased from the Knights of Columbus, results in double giving. Gift cards can be placed in the locked box outside the office.

The Catholic Women's League is coordinating this project and thanks all for their support.

St Thomas More Council of the Catholic Women's League

will be holding a **membership drive** on the **weekend of December 8th - 9th** after all the masses.

All Women of the parish are invited to stop by our display to discuss or register for membership.



For more information please contact Organization Chairperson Pam De Luca at 780-434-1034

Nativity Scene Making Contest

Get together with your family and create an original nativity scene (i.e., not store bought) or other creative visual display around the concept of 'Keeping Christ in Christmas'. The only rule is that your creation must fit within a 24" x 24" footprint base - otherwise you are limited only by your creativity (and craftiness)!!!



The detailed rules will be available at <http://www.kofc7599.org/home> and Knights of Columbus Notice Board. You can also contact *Tony Joseph* at 780-399-8250 josephktony@gmail.com or *Glenn Elle* (gellewfg@gmail.com) for more details.

Attractive cash awards and certificates will be given to the winners and all participants will be given a certificate.

Baptism: Infant to 7 yrs. - **Contact:** Diane Middleton 780-434-6313 ext. 233 **Registration:** Call Diane to arrange a time.

Preparation is Next: on 2 consecutive Mondays - Dec. 3 & 10 from 7 to 9pm - **DROP IN** (for parents & godparents). Class may be taken before arrival or registration of the child requiring baptism.



Brochure: For process, requirements, additional dates offered for preparation etc. please refer to the baptism brochure. You will find it in the stand at the main entrance to the church and at the **Sacraments**

link on our website stm.caedm.ca.

Congratulations to the Newly Baptized: In November, the following children entered into the community of the Trinity through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Paul A. Josiah S. Jackson T. Ethan T. Evan T. Keegan T. Xochitl B. Leo D. Adriel L. Arianna T. Brianna T. Giorgio R. Jacquelyn B. Rayhem B. Evan D. Presley K. Emma K. Jude L. and Esomchukwu O.

Please remember our new little brothers and sisters in your prayers.

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

It is a continuous challenge to meet the needs of those who call. Your contributions, however big or small, provide physical comfort to those who have so little. More importantly, after our visits they know they live in a loving community of people who care for them. Please continue to support the less advantaged in our community with your donations of food, clothing, household goods, furniture and money. We do this work on behalf of parishioners, in the Name of Christ who loved the poor.

Thank you sincerely for your ongoing commitment to our less fortunate neighbours.

If you or someone you know needs help or wishes to donate furniture or household goods, please give us a call at 780-471-5577 or visit us at - www.ssvpedmonton.ca.”



If you want to learn more about SSVp or get involved with the Divine Mercy Conference please come to our meetings held in the Chapter Room at St. Thomas More on the first Tuesday of the month following the 7pm Mass.



Appointment registrations for the *Parish Directory* are winding down. *We thank all parishioners who participated in the program.* For those who have not registered yet, there are only few a few spots available until January 12, 2019. Online registrations and after-mass sign-ups are no longer available.



To register, change or cancel your appointment, please contact Rose Lorenz at (780) 988-5634 / rmlorenz@telus.net.



The Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus will be hosting the *2018 Seniors Christmas Dinner and Dance* on Saturday, December 15th after the 5pm Mass in the parish hall. Tickets are \$25 dollars each and can be purchased this weekend at the entrance of the Church.

For more information, please contact Blaine Benson (threebensons@gmail.com) or Al Girard (algirard@telus.net) with the Knights of Columbus.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PARISH NOVENA DECEMBER 3-11, 2018

That the Gospel of Jesus Christ be joyfully proclaimed and received anew on the American Continent
Led 30 minutes before all masses, weekday and weekend, or Do-it-Yourself at Home
Novena to be distributed at all masses Dec 1 & 2.
Copies will also be available in church foyer.
Novena will also be posted on parish website.

The next First Friday is DECEMBER 7
Come and make a holy hour with
Jesus who awaits your visit!



SCHEDULE

Mass: 9am, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Benediction at 3pm.

To ensure that someone is in the church between 9:30am-3pm and if you can commit to one hour, please sign up on sheet in foyer. Drop-ins welcome too!

Pope Saint John Paul II on devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus : "For it is from the Heart of Christ that the human heart learns to know the true and unique meaning of its life and destiny; it is in the Heart of Christ that the human heart receives its capacity of love."

~Rediscover this ageless devotion with eternal benefits~

REMAND CENTRE CHRISTMAS BAG PROJECT: Will you please help us? 3000 Chocolate Bars & Bookmarkers NEEDED by December 16th!

St. Thomas More Parish is once again asking all parishioners to kindly donate chocolate bars (100 grams or less) and pick up blank bookmarkers to write and/or draw encouraging words/picture for our inmates at the Remand Centre. This project supports men and women being held awaiting trial.

Chocolate bar drop off and Bookmarker pick up/drop off is located next to the Family Coordinator's office. For more information, call Donna at 780-803-0121.

We greatly appreciate your support!



The next First Saturday is DECEMBER 8

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & ANNUAL CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY AT 9AM MASS

ADVENT is the Marian Season of Expectant Hope. This month's meditation: 3rd Joyful Mystery, the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth (two expecting mothers)

SCHEDULE

Rosary: 8:40am, Mass: 9am, Guided 15 minute meditation after Mass, Confession, see bulletin

"Jesus wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart."

(Our Lady to Lucia at Fátima, 1917)

"The Mother of Christ presents herself as the **spokeswoman** of her Son's will, pointing out those things which must be done so that the salvific power of the Messiah may be manifested."

Pope St. John Paul II, RM,21

For more information visit www.marian.org/13th/firstsaturday.php



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018

Holy Mass @ 6:30 pm at St. Thomas More Church followed at 7:15pm by the acclaimed Knights of Columbus DVD *The Miracle and the Message* in the parish hall (58 minutes). Question & Answer Session. All are welcome!

Produced by the Knights of Columbus. Narrated by actor Jim Caviezel from the *Passion*



A Project of the Knights of Columbus St Thomas More Parish,
210 Haddow Close, Edmonton, AB

ADVOCATE FOR SENIORS HELPS WITH INFORMATION AND REFERRALS

The Alberta Office of the Seniors Advocate can be a resource for seniors or those working with seniors. Anyone who self-identifies as a senior can reach out for assistance; they don't have to be 65 years old. Someone can also call this office on behalf of the senior needing help.

The Office of the Seniors Advocate (OSA) provides information and resolution support to seniors. The OSA can provide information to ensure seniors are receiving available financial benefits and provide connections to programs to assist with health, social and home supports. Contact the OSA if you or a client needs assistance linking to government or community programs and services.

Edmonton: 780-644-0682 Toll Free: 1-844-644-0682

Email: seniors.advocate@gov.ab.ca

Web: seniorsadvocate.alberta.ca