

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

210 Haddow Close, Edmonton, AB, T6R 2P3

Office: 780-434-6313 Rectory: 780-434-9483, Pastor's Cell: (emergency only) 780-907-7782



Pastor: Fr. Mitchell Fidyka
Associate Pastor: Fr. Curtis Berube
Permanent Deacons: Randy Abele, Chris Ashdown
Fall Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 am – 2 pm

Website: <https://stm.caedm.ca>

Email: communications.stm@caedm.ca

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:00 pm (livestreamed)
Sunday 8:00 am
10:00 am
12:00 pm
5:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Monday 6:00 pm
Tuesday 9:00 am 6:00 pm
Wednesday 9:00 am 6:00 pm
Thursday 9:00 am 6:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am 6:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

One hour before all morning and evening weekday Masses

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 5:00 pm
First Friday 9:30 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 (pastoral1.stm@caedm.ca)

Baptism

- See Baptismal brochure in stand or look on website
- Parents & godparents are required to take preparation classes (pastoral.stm@caedm.ca)

Marriages

- Schedule an appointment before you book any other facilities (pastoral.stm@caedm.ca)
- 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 (pastoral1.stm@caedm.ca)
- See green sacrament brochure for details

Confirmation

- For those 11 years (& older) by Confirmation date
- Registrations for Confirmation 2020 Program start in May (pastoral1.stm@caedm.ca)

RCIA and RCIC (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 (pastoral.stm@caedm.ca)
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Parish Staff:

Pastoral Associate: Christina Faitakis
Pastoral Assistant: Shannon Van Soest
Music Coordinator: Johanna Dietrich

Bookkeeper: Elvie Fermin-Chua
Maintenance: Marian Ragac



2nd Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

"Prepare the way of the Lord."



People came in droves to receive John's baptism. They came out to the desert from as far away as Jerusalem to hear John's condemnations and to embrace repentance.

So what happened to all those reformed by John? Some of those baptized transferred their allegiance to Jesus, as John recommended. Some had only gone out for the glamour and never really changed. Some fell away after the death of John, disappointed. Eventually, the excitement of the message and that day at the river faded from people's hearts.

Baptism and its testimony is not sustained by having been there, done that. The sign has to be carried forward, in the testimony of our lives and choices.

We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce through our words and actions the coming of the Lord, as John did.

Prepare the Way of the Lord

We have posted a new set of [prayers for Advent](#) on our website. Advent is a time of joyful preparation for the birth of our Saviour. What better way to prepare than to spend some extra time in prayer and meditation. Our world, our parish and we as individuals need prayer at this time. Instead of preparing with shopping, cooking and decorating, make this Advent season a deeply spiritual one. Make your family Advent wreath a gathering point for family prayer.

We encourage you to return to the celebration of the Eucharist. We are allowed to have the church at one third capacity so we have room for you and your families to come to Mass. The 5 pm Saturday, 8 am Sunday and 5 pm Sunday Masses have more room to accommodate additional attendees.

We can all do our part to end this health emergency. Follow the guidelines for home gatherings and wearing masks. Most of all, pray. Pray fervently and often, as individuals and families. With God's help, all will be well.

Fr. Mitch

ADDITIONAL WEEKDAY MASSES

We wish to give people more opportunity to attend daily Mass. **There will be two, daily, weekday Masses, Tuesday to Friday, at 9am and 6pm.** There is opportunity for confession the hour before each Mass.

The **Bishops of Alberta and the Northwest Territories** have written a letter to address the question, "*Is it okay for a Catholic to be vaccinated against COVID-19?*" and examines the moral permissibility, applying ecclesial teaching on cooperation with evil. Please [read the full letter here](#), or pick up a copy at the entrance of the church.

		
Mon. December 7	6pm	†Douglas Lavoie †Francisco Adriano
Tues. December 8 THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9am 6pm	†Norma Cuario Blanco and Alcasid Families
Wed. December 9	9am 6pm	Iris Calder Agnes Lui
Thurs. December 10	9am 6pm	†Nicholas Taylor †Laurel Buchan
Fri. December 11	9am 6pm	†Rev. Fr. Rajanayagam †Marilyn Hinchey
Sat. December 12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE	9am 5pm online	Oghenemarion Djebah (thanksgiving) †Josh Pare-White
Sun. December 13 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8am 10am 12pm 5pm	†Richard Wilburn Meaghan and Sarah Mateo Rouleau †Charles Sequeira

Next Sunday Readings:

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11, Psalm: Luke 1,
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Our Offerings: Nov. 29,

Regular Sunday Collection:	\$9,435
Together We Serve:	\$ 265
Christmas Offering:	\$ 100
Donation:	\$10,000

Envelopes for 2021 can be picked up at the back of the church.

Updated Archdiocese guidelines have reduced the number of attendees for Baptisms, Funeral Masses, and Wedding liturgies to 10 people.

FORMED[®]THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

It's been said that Christmas is merely a pagan day that was Christianized by the early Church - and now the pagans want it back. Yet the holiday we call Christmas (and the season of Advent that precedes it) is marked by wonder, holiness, and beauty, which go beyond mere sentimentality. Preparing "the way of the Lord," as begun by John the Baptist, continues for us now, signaling the beginning of the Church year. Please enjoy the formed.org presentation *Prepare the Way* by Bob Rice.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses - December 24

4:00pm, 6:00pm*, 8:00pm, 10:00pm, 12:00am* (midnight)

Christmas Day Masses - December 25

10:00am*, 12:00pm

* *These Masses will also be livestreamed*

New Year's Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve Mass - December 31

5:00pm*

New Year's Day Masses - January 1

10:00am*, 12:00pm

* *This Mass will also be livestreamed*

Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His path straight

This Christmas the Knights of Columbus invites you to lead the way in preparing for the arrival of baby Jesus.

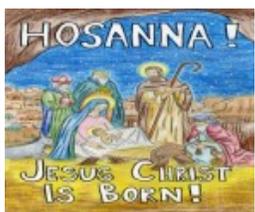
Event 1: Make a Room in your inn - Nativity Scene Creation

Get together with your family and create a nativity scene depicting child Jesus in a manger that celebrates the Catholic understanding of Christmas. Any material and size can be used to construct the entry. You are limited only by your creativity (and craftiness)!!!

Event 2: 'Keep Christ in Christmas' Poster Contest

Youth 5 to 14 years of age are invited to use whatever medium they want (ie. paint, crayon, marker, etc.), to create a unique poster (11" x 17") that depicts your concept of 'Keeping Christ in Christmas'.

Please submit high definition photographs of either or both of the above activities online: family@kofc7599.org by 6pm on Tuesday, Dec. 22. Ensure your name, contact number and email address are included with your entry.



Direct questions to our Council's Youth Programs Director Jason Kalapurakal or Tony Joseph, at family@kofc7599.org. Prizes to be awarded based on creativity and relevance to the theme!

Congratulations to the following children who entered into the community of the Church through the

Sacrament of Baptism:



I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit—

Gabriella Paulina, Arianna Rochelle,
Jaz Kaetlyn Ausan, Liam Douglas,
Hanna Madeleine, Zachary Thomas Terrence,
Michelle Ifechukwu, Franklin Jr. Ugonna,
Richelle Munachimso Emma,
Julia Gloria Szorenyi, Veronika Sabina,
Colton Ryan, Tyler Xavier, Cayden Ray,
Clay Corbin, Emily-Dawn Michele,
Avery-Lyn Marie, and Olyvia-Nola Monique.

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

Prayers for the Sick

We care about the sick and suffering in our parish and pray for them daily. These prayers are included in the intentions of the rosary that we pray before the Eucharist.



May they receive the peace & healing of the Lord

Gianna Centre
PREGNANCY SUPPORT
SERVICES



Please drop off donation items for the Gianna Centre on the weekend of Dec. 12/13 or any time during the week at the office. Many thanks for your generous support!



CWL members are invited to join our annual ADVENT Celebration on December 8th at 7pm, via zoom. There will be forwarding the zoom link via email. Thank you to those who supported the Stuffed Toque project. Thirty-seven stuffed toques were collected for those in need.

Your donations are appreciated!

The **GIVING TREE** is a St. Thomas More Advent tradition. This year, more than ever, the support of our parish is needed for the women and children of **Lurana Shelter**, a refuge for those fleeing from family violence. We are unable to have you take stars and angels from the Giving Tree. Instead refer to the list of needed items beside the tree, on the parish website or in the bulletin. **All items must be new, not promoting violence, and unwrapped.** Drop off your gifts by the Giving Tree located in the gathering space of the church during the weeks of Advent up **until December 20**. Giving gifts cards is strongly encouraged (suggested maximum amount per card is \$25) and, if purchased from the Knights of Columbus, results in double giving (contact Ken at kshivak@shaw.ca or 780-434-0632 to purchase gift cards).



Drop off gift cards in the locked box outside the parish office. The Catholic Women's League is coordinating this project once again and thanks all for their support.

Certificate in Catholic Studies - Online Faith Formation



This a comprehensive selection of courses on various aspects of the Catholic faith, all offered online, which can be taken individually for interest, or applied toward a specialized Certificate in Catholic Studies. This user-friendly format has grown rapidly and is being accessed by hundreds of people across the world. The next cycle starts Jan. 11, 2021.

<https://www.newman.edu/CCS>

Check for lost items in the coat room or office. We have some items that have been found: winter items (hats, scarves, mitts/gloves), keys, reading glasses, jewellery, missals, and children's items

With colder weather now upon us, it is important to arrive on time for Mass. Welcome tables have been arranged to allow more people to arrive out of the cold and starting next week, when the church is full and after Mass begins, the glass doors at the back of the church will be closed. Latecomers will be asked to stand in the areas to the east or west sides of the sanctuary – we have socially distanced areas marked on the carpet on both sides. Thank-you for your understanding.



Three books, written by Fr. Joseph Jacobson. *A Grain of Wheat* is the story of how a brilliant but disillusioned man moves from a self-absorbed childhood and adolescence to a dramatic awakening to a life of love and duty. It probes many of the issues that we face today and puts them in the context of God's unfolding plan for humanity.

Straight with Crooked Lines gives three very different redemption stories. The "Straight" in the title refers to the constancy of God's grace. The "With Crooked Lines" refers to the inconstancy and wide variety of our human responses to it.

The Beatitudes and Woes of Jesus Christ, for the slow favouring of serious disciples.

Father Joseph Jacobson has served as a Lutheran pastor and bishop and as a Catholic priest. He and Carolyn were married for fifty-two years and nine months when she died in 2018. They have two children and nine grand-children.

*Great gift idea or enjoy for self-study!
Available from the office, by donation*

Keep Christ in Christmas Christmas Card Fundraiser

Beautiful Christmas card sets (10 cards/pack) will be available for purchase at the entrance of the church after weekend Masses. Cost: \$10/pack, \$25/3-packs. The proceeds from the sale of the cards will be used to support **MaterCare International**.

MaterCare International



is an organization of Catholic health professionals dedicated to the care of mothers and babies. MCI's mission is to carry out the work of Evangelium Vitae (the Gospel of Life) by improving the lives and health of mothers and babies, both born and unborn, through new initiatives of service, training, research, and advocacy designed to reduce the tragic levels of abortion world-wide and maternal and perinatal mortality, morbidity in developing countries.

For more information: <https://www.matercare.org/>

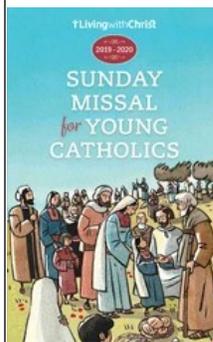
Sponsored by the Culture of Life Ministry

GROCERY CARD PROGRAM

In prior years December has been our best sales month. During these Covid times you can make a difference. Please order cards for your family, extended family, people in need and charities. Contact Ken Shivak at 780-707-5960 or Wally Streit at 780-988-8719.

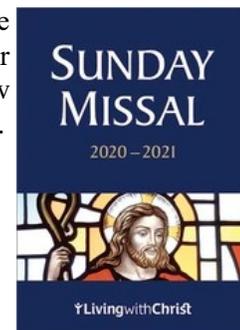
With our gratitude - Christmas Blessings!

Living with Christ Sunday Missal



Sunday missals for the coming liturgical year 2020-2021 are now available for purchase.

Includes: Sunday Mass Scripture readings, musical acclamations, Sunday liturgy reflections, calendar of saints.



Children missal: \$10

Adult missal: \$5

Let us celebrate the Mass together!

St. Thomas More Parish: Family of Schools Contact Information

School Name	Grades	Phone #	Principal
Archbishop Joseph MacNeil	K-9	780-471-4218	George Antonakis
Monsignor Fee Otterson	K-9	780-430-8015	Marie Whelan
Monsignor William Irwin	K-6	780-430-1121	Lynnette Anderson
Mother Margaret Mary	10-12	780-988-2279	Dean Rootsart
St. Boniface	K-6	780-434-0294	Leana Perri
St. John XXIII	K-9	780-469-2451	Michael Kovacs
St. Mary	K-6	780-988-6577	Christine Vince
St. Monica	Pre-school	780-436-7888	Kris Hodgins
St. Stanislaus	K-6	780-434-0295	Nella Funaro
St. Teresa	K-6	780-437-6022	Julieta Zelada
St. Thomas Aquinas	K-9	780 409-2604	Danita Power