

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

210 Haddow Close, Edmonton, AB, T6R 2P3
Office: **780-434-6313**; Fax: 780-438-2088
Rectory: 780-434-9483, Pastor's Cell: (emergency only) 780-907-7782

Pastor: Fr. Mitchell Fidyka

Permanent Deacons: Randy Abele, Chris Ashdown, Tom Sudsbear

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 am – 4 pm



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

Email: communications.stm@caedm.ca

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

*Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am
10:00 am
12:00 pm
5:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

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

* These Masses are also live-streamed

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 (pastorall.stm@caedm.ca)

Baptism

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

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 (pastorall.stm@caedm.ca)
- See Reconciliation/First Communion brochure for details

Confirmation

- For those 11 years (& older) by Confirmation date
- Registrations for Confirmation 2021 Program start in May (Julie.Lee@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 (rciacoordinator.stm@caedm.ca)
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Parish Staff:

Pastoral Assistant: Christina Faitakis
Julie Lee
Music Coordinator: Johanna Dietrich

Business Coordinator: Paul Givens
Bookkeeper: Elvie Fermin-Chua
Maintenance Manager: Marian Ragac



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

This is how the birth of Jesus came about.

It's a story about an old-world engagement – a deal cut, father and intended husband shaking hands on an exchange of resources. And then the upset – a pregnant girl, a spoiled contract. But a good man does not hand over a child to a mob for stoning, so he opts for a discreet annulment of the deal. Joseph had no idea that he had made a contract with Heaven over the redemption of history itself.

An angel explains the details: the Holy Spirit, the son on the way, the end of sin as we know it. Joseph is not losing a wife, he is gaining a Savior! Grace happens. And Christmas happens too, in part because a good man chose not to stand in its way.

You and I have a part to play in the story of redemption. Our Eucharist is a contract with heaven, and all we have to do is get our agenda out of the way and let grace happen.

Glory be to God for this gift!

THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.

FORMED[®]

This Advent, the makers of Brother Francis bring you *The Christmas Pageant that Almost Wasn't* to help your children enjoy the mystery of Christmas! It is our [formed.org](https://www.formed.org) Christmas suggestion for the children of the parish. For the adults, in the same media, we suggest *The Blessings of Christmas* by Joseph Ratzinger. This inspiring set of writings is ideal for both Advent and Christmas with sincere and popular meditations by Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Readings taken from homilies as well as writings by this beloved leader, writer and pontiff will give you a fresh insight into the deeper meaning of the Birth of Christ. See how Pope Benedict knows how to address the minds and hearts of us all. We encourage you to spend some time in spiritual preparation for the Christmas season.

Mass Intentions <small>FOR THE WEEK</small>		
Monday December 20	6pm	†Robert Chee Ming †Terio Encarnacion
Tuesday December 21	6pm	†Fred Flaman Hannah Oryschak †Harold Fitzsimmons (40 day death anniversary)
Wednesday December 22	9am	†Albert Amyotte (4 month death anniversary) Peter Lema
Thursday December 23	9am	Heather and Ernest Reimer Jenny Harris
*Friday December 24	*4pm *6pm 8pm 10pm *12am	Bishop Greg Bittman †Steve Sprysak Sr. For all volunteers of our Parish For new vocations to the priesthood Blessings for all parishioners in the new year
*Saturday December 25	10am 12pm	Sr. Christina Wong THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Intention of Parishioner
Sunday December 26	8am 10am 12pm 5pm	†Blair Desveaux HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Nkwete family (in thanksgiving) †Don and †David Scherman †Intention of Parishioners

* These Masses are also live-streamed

Prayers for the Deceased

- +Helen Antoniuk
- Cipriano Bagalay
- +Donna Pawliw

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon them.*

“Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His path straight.”

The Knights of Columbus invites all youth to participate in the **2021 KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS CONTEST**, to lead the way in preparing for the arrival of baby Jesus. Just reminder to submit your artworks by email on or before December 24th, 2021. Please direct questions to Jason Kalapurakal or Tony Joseph, at family@kofc7599.org.

Next Sunday Readings:

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Psalm 128,
Colossians 3:12-21, Luke 2:41-52

Our Offerings: December 12

Regular Sunday Collection†: \$ 23,167
 Christmas/Other: \$ 2,400
 Together We Serve: \$ 1,812
 Southwest Parish: \$ 410



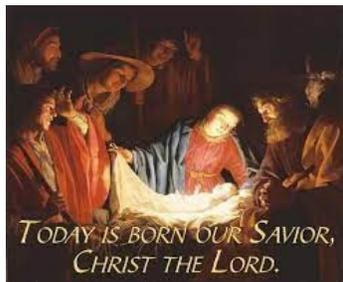


The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2021



“Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.”



From the infinite Kingdom of Heaven, the Word of God journeys to the small town of Bethlehem. The Light from Light enters a darkened world in the middle of the night. The Only-Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, takes on flesh and is born of the lowly Blessed Virgin Mary. The All-Powerful God becomes vulnerable, unable to move His limbs as He is wrapped in swaddling clothes. The Word through whom all things were made, including blazing sun, relies on the embrace of His mother to keep Him warm. The King of Kings is hidden under the veil of flesh, but not lost. His divine nature is perfectly united to human nature so that we might be able to see the living God face to face and be saved.

Rejoice! Our God has come to save us!

Christmas Greetings from Our Pastor

Dear Friends,

Today we are given the greatest gift of all time. God came to save us, to set us free. We are given hope – hope for better or at least normal times again, hope for peace, hope for love in our families and in our world. We are given the joy of Christ among us.

You give freely of your time and talents in the many ministries and services that you perform. You continue to demonstrate a generous spirit and prayerful hearts.

Your generous financial support has made possible not only to maintain our own church but also to share with other parishes. Thank you also for the many personal kindnesses to me as your pastor.

I wish you many blessings this Christmas Season and in the upcoming year. May you and those near to you experience good health, peace, happiness and a growth in piety and faith.

God bless you today and always.

Father Mitch

Christmas Table Prayer

Lord of Love and Mercy,

We pray a thankful prayer today.

We are thankful for the Christmas gift of the birth of our Savior. We thank you for our own families and for all families of our parishes. We thank you for our opportunity to serve them.

We are thankful for the blessings of sharing this simple meal.

Lord, we ask that you bless this food and bless our fellowship.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen

Christmas Greetings from Archbishop Smith



His Grace, Archbishop Smith's [Christmas message](#)

for this year can be found at the Archdiocese of Edmonton's

YouTube channel: [https://](https://youtu.be/ZcEpD9pJXdk)

youtu.be/ZcEpD9pJXdk



The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton

Christmas Mass Schedule

Nativity of the Lord – Christmas

Dec. 24 at 4 pm, 6 pm*, 8 pm, 10 pm and midnight*

Dec. 25 at 10 am and 12 noon*

Feast of the Holy Family

Dec. 26 at 8 am, 10 am* and 12 noon

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Dec. 31 at 5 pm* (Vigil)

Jan. 1 at 10 am and 12 noon

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Jan. 1 at 5 pm* (Vigil)

Jan. 2 at 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon and 5 pm

* These Masses will also be livestreamed

Christmas Week Office Hours

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dec. 20	21	22	23	24
9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm	9am - 12pm
27	28	29	30	31
closed	closed	9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm	9am - 12pm
Jan. 3	4	5	6	7
closed	9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm

Knights of Columbus invite you with family and friends to support the **KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS** campaign in a special manner. Keep Christ in Christmas stickers are available at the entrance of the church and can be displayed on cars, at work, businesses, school or at home.

Winter 2022 STM Scripture Study

The scripture study will begin on Thursday, January 13, 2022 from 7:30-9:00pm. There will be 10 weekly sessions – the last one on March 17, 2022. Our sessions will be virtual meetings on Zoom so one would need to have this free app to access the study. We will be studying the letter of Paul to the Romans using the booklet entitled: “*Romans: Salvation offered to All*”. Booklets are \$12 each. Once I have your contact information (email and phone number), I can make arrangements to get the booklets to you. Join to learn, pray, and share your faith. The time commitment is 90 minutes each week. Those who have participated in other scripture studies have noted a positive impact upon their faith life. For registration or information call Deacon Randy Abele at (780) 435-5070 or (780) 493-1972 or email: randy.abele@caedm.ca



The Archdiocese of Edmonton participates in an ecumenical justice housing initiative called **NO ROOM IN THE INN**, based on the biblical story of Mary and Joseph being homeless after discovering that there was no room in the inn in Bethlehem the night that Jesus was born. For 2021 No Room in the Inn campaign, your parishioners are invited to support L'Arche Edmonton. This year we are striving to improve the housing for people with special needs in our community. One of the homes in particular is over 50 years old and needs repairs and updates. **Your donations will help make this happen.**

Please see the Archdiocese website to donate:

<https://caedm.ca/nrii/>

Please follow the [L'Arche brochure link](#) from our online bulletin, or pick up a copy at the parish.

Synodal Process Update

Please see this video message from His Grace, Archbishop Richard Smith and coordinator Eugenia Pagnotta-Kowalczyk for an update on the process: <https://youtu.be/ZQBdaPJvnmkw>. Please see the [synod page on the Archdiocesan website](#) for resources and updates on the synodal process.



Read their [December newsletter](#) here, or find it on their website: <https://www.ccssa.ca/grateful-advocates-for-catholic-education2>

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	Patrick Lema
Monsignor William Irwin	K-6	780-430-1121	Azza Ghali
Mother Margaret Mary	10-12	780-988-2279	Dean Rootsart
St. Boniface	K-6	780-434-0294	Thomas Rees
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	Michele Wedemire
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



Newman Theological College's rigorous 'Great Books' Bachelor of Arts degree in Catholic Studies equips graduates to succeed in any vocation or career and serves as a gateway to future service in education, business, law, government, journalism, medicine, ministry, homemaking, and more.



Earn Your Fully Accredited BA in 3 Years
Enjoy Small Classes and a Catholic Community
Sing Sacred Music
Paint Icons
Socratic, Great Books Seminars

Newman Theological College is a Roman Catholic School of Theology committed to theological education and missionary discipleship. The college is located in the heart of the river valley in Edmonton, AB. Students are encouraged to enroll by May 13, 2022, to be considered for full bursary awards. Email admissions@newman.edu or visit www.newman.edu/BACath for more information.



Telus OptikTV Channel 877

STM website: <https://stm.caedm.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stthomasmoreyeg/>

Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZSAygs1yQAwRwU-wIq91-w>



To support the Knights of Columbus and purchase grocery cards contact:
Ken Shivak at kshivak@shaw.ca or
phone: 780-434-0632

Thank-you for your continuing support!