



# ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

210 Haddow Close, Edmonton, AB T6R 2P3

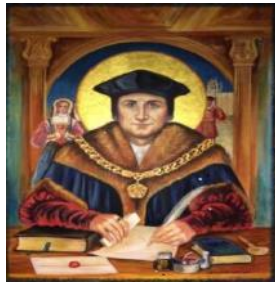
Office: 780 434 6313 Website: stm.caedm.ca

Pastor: **Fr. Mark McGee**

Associate Pastor: **Fr. Avinash Francis**

Permanent Deacons: **Randy Abele, Tom Sudsbear & Gordon Taylor**

Office Hours: Mon - Thu 9 am - 9pm | Fri 9 am - 4 pm | Sat 8:30am - 2 pm | Sun 1 pm - 4:30 pm, Closed on Stat Holidays



## Sunday, November 3, 2024

### WEEKDAY LITURGIES, (Nov 05– Nov 08)

**Tue:** No Mass (Priests away)

**Wed:** No Mass (Priests away)

**Thurs:** Confession/Mass: 4:15/5 pm

**Fri:** Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am

### SUNDAY MASS TIMES, (Nov 09/Nov 10)

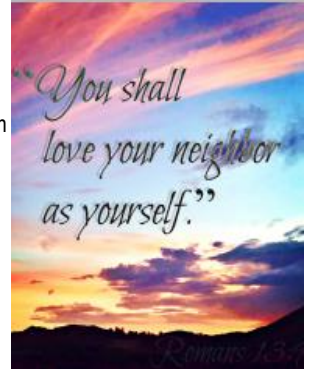
**Saturday:** Communal Rosary 3:55/Mass 4:30 pm

**Sunday:** Communal Rosary 7:25/Mass 8 am

Mass 9:30 am (Rosary in Private)

Mass 11am (Rosary in Private)

Mass 12:30pm (Rosary in Private)



### THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Mon, Nov 04** Funeral Mass for Joan Kucharski at 11am  
Confirmation Catechism (session 3)- 6pm to 8pm  
Marriage Enrichment—7 to 9pm  
Scripture study with Deacon Randy, 7 to 9pm  
Liturgy Committee Meeting—7 to 9pm
- Tue, Nov 05:** **No Mass:** Priests Assembly  
Nativity Play rehearsal at 5pm  
CWL Executive meeting— 7 to 9:30pm  
Grief Support 7 to 9pm
- Wed, Nov 06:** **No Mass:** Priests Assembly
- Thur, Nov 07:** **Game Zone is cancelled today**  
Confession/Mass: 4:15/5pm  
Children's choir 6 to 7pm  
Adult Choir 7 to 10pm  
RCIA 7 to 9pm
- Fri, Nov 08:** Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am
- Sat, Nov 09:** Confession/Mass: 3-4pm/4:30pm  
Verso L'Alto/Duc in Altum 5:30 to 8pm
- Sun, Nov 10:** Mass at 8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12:30pm

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 45 MINUTES BEFORE WEEKDAY MASS  
& Saturday: 3 pm to 4 pm

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Mon, Nov 11** Remembrance Day—Office & Church is closed
- Sat, Nov 16** K of C State Degree Exemplification 9am to 12pm
- Wed, Nov 20** 2nd Cycle -1st Recon. & 1st. Eucharist Orientation 6 to 7pm  
Annual Memorial Mass for our departed loved ones at 7:30pm
- Sat, Nov 23** Verso L'Alto/Duc in Altum for Jr. & High sch. students 5:30 to 7:30pm
- Sun, Nov 24** Pancake breakfast after the 8 & 9:30am Masses  
First Eucharist Mass at 4:30pm

### Celebrating Anniversaries

As requested by Pope Francis, we celebrate the commitment to Marriage:

**Rosanne & Joseph Buijs**  
**50th Wedding Anniversary on Nov 9**

**Anna & Antoni Rayar**  
**51st Wedding Anniversary on Nov 9**

May God bless you and deepen your love for each other!



### Parish Staff

<b>Youth and Family Ministry Coord:</b>	Shavi Perera	<b>Business Coordinator:</b>	Paul Givens
<b>Pastoral Assistant for Baptism:</b>	Tracy Lam	<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	Salwa Saydeh
<b>Music Coordinator:</b>	Johanna Dietrich	<b>Maintenance &amp; Custodial:</b>	Mark Whaley
<b>Youth Sacramental Prep Catechists:</b>	Monica Bober & Mona Timko	<b>Administrative Assistants:</b>	Olivia D., Lorraine K., Bernardine Z., Angela B. & Dorothy J.

# Sunday Gospel Reflection

By Deacon Tom



## Love is Greater (Matthew 12:28-34)

In the Old Testament, the Jewish rabbis listed 613 precepts of the law of the covenant, (248 Commands and 365 Prohibitions) which were further classified into light and grave. Many Jews debated the light or grave binding force of these laws, so the question that the Scribe asked of Jesus was not an unusual or trick question.

Jesus' answer is faithful to his Jewish faith, not picking out any particular statute but giving the most essential declaration of the Jewish faith, the Shema, love of God and love of neighbor.

Jesus is clarifying that the originator of the covenant is God (the one holy God), the mediator of the covenant is Jesus (the High Priest) and the essence of the covenant is love.

Jesus sealed the covenant, willingly sacrificing himself for us, as an atonement for our sins, and though we might not be able to understand the limitless love he has for us, he has invited us into an intimate personal relationship with him, to open ourselves to him, and to love with all our heart and all our soul.

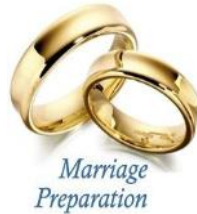
Jesus listed the love of God and the love of neighbor as the two great commandments of the law (the leading virtues of our religion) and they will be the deciding factors on how we spend our life in eternity.

So let us fall in love with God, knowing that when we see in each other the image of God, we are not far from the kingdom of God.

## Sacrament of Marriage

**Step 1** when preparing for marriage is to talk with our Pastor, Father Mark. **Catholic Marriage Preparation** program will take place on March 14 to 16, 2025. **Register** [bit.ly/MarriagePrep2025](https://bit.ly/MarriagePrep2025)

The registration deadline is on February 14, 2025.



## MARIDEN PILGRIMAGE TOUR

Jubilee 2025 - Italian Shrines

Annunciation & St. Thomas More Catholic Parishes  
Along with Fr. Francis Mariappa & Fr. Avinash Francis

October 9 - 18, 2025 10 days

Four Holy Doors open during your trip (once in 25 years)

30 - 40 paid: \$5,595 in double rooms

41 - 45 paid: \$5,495 in double rooms

46 - 53 paid: \$5,395 in double rooms

single room supplement: \$790 per person

Thursday, October 9, 2025 departure

## PRAYER CORNER.....

### Prayer for the Sick



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH:** For those struggling with sickness, facing surgery, or in recovery, especially Chris Simpson, Lucy Longo, Darren Day, Clare Forton, Adolfo Cruz, Lillian Laforge, Diego Rosales, Maria Longo, Marcella Cloran, Carl Blansjaar, Jackie Blansjaar, Orest Witiw, John Gougen, Betty McGowan, Pauline Modeste, Felipe Cortes, Frank Chu, Fern Beaudoin, Julie Lee, Andre Mickelson, Emily Stecyk & Luciana Fung, that they may be given the strength and guidance they seek.



### PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED

For those who have gone into the presence of our Father, and for those whose names are recorded in the parish Book of Remembrance, especially for Jonathan Abcede, Angelo Estacio, Pablito Cuenca, Nick Phan, Frances Mary Voyce, Eugene Kamengele, Joan Kucharski, Mary Ann Beaulieu & Shauna Chong, that He will raise them up to live forever.

## Are you 16+ years and have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation and would like to?

Call our office to register.



**Session 1:** Catechesis, Tuesday Nov. 26, 2024, from 7pm - 9pm

**Session 2:** Catechesis, Tuesday Dec. 3, 2024, from 7pm - 9pm

**Session 3:** Confession, Saturday Dec. 7, 2024, from 12 pm

**Confirmation Mass** with Father Mark McGee: Monday December 16th, 2024, at 7 pm

(Practicing Catholic Sponsor/Godparent needed)





**"Our high school youth celebrated Mass & Adoration with Fr. Avi on the top of Mount Solomon."**



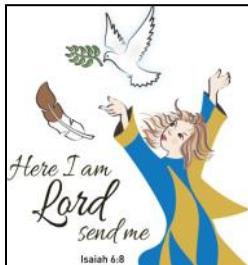
**"Mountain Retreat with our High School Youth"**

#### CWL Membership Drive

The St. Thomas More Catholic Women's League is holding a membership drive on the weekends of Nov. 9-10 and Nov. 16-17, after all Masses. Come by the table at the back of the church foyer to renew your membership for 2025 or to join CWL.

The League is Canada's largest organization of women, founded right here in Edmonton, 112 years ago. At STM, our members provide gifts for newlywed couples and children receiving the sacraments of initiation, tend to Mary's Garden on the west side of the church, and work on various projects to assist those in need—all while having fun!

On a national level, the League advocates for the Catholic perspective on issues of the day. We invite all women to join the CWL for friendship and growth in faith, service, and social justice. For more information, please contact [stmcwl@gmail.com](mailto:stmcwl@gmail.com).



**e4c School Nutrition Program:** Last weekend the CWL handed out lunch bags in support of the e4c School Nutrition Program. This weekend, and at any subsequent weekend Mass, please place your cheque, made out to e4c School Nutrition Program, in the collection basket. Donations can also be put in the locked box outside the office at any time. Cash is accepted as well, but if you would like a tax receipt, please ensure you include your name and address. Donations can also be made online at [e4calberta.org](http://e4calberta.org), just indicate that it's for the School Nutrition program. In the "write a note" section, please specify that donation is from St. Thomas More Parish. Thanks for your support!



JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY  
GRADE 7-9

## DUC IN ALTUM

"CAST OUT INTO THE DEEP"

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday  
5:30-8pm

Following  
4:30  
Mass

210 Haddow Close NW  
Our Lady of the Rosary  
Rm.

Scan this QR  
code to join  
our email list



#### Are you starting your Christmas baking?



We invite all St. Thomas More parishioners to contribute baked goods to support the STM CWL Market fundraiser. More details about drop-off will follow in the coming weeks. We are also looking for donations of used books, board games, and puzzles (please ensure that board games and puzzles are complete). Please place your donations in the box, labeled "Christmas Box," under the CWL bulletin board. Thank you for your support of the CWL Christmas Market on December 7!

#### Monk Therapy Retreat: Ancient Spiritual Practices & Modern Mental Health with Ron Klok

In psychology there is growing respect for spiritual practices as contributors to positive mental health. Interestingly, many modern mental health practices are reflected in the ancient practices of the Christian mystics. This retreat looks at nine spiritual practices of the Christian mystics-talk, tears, self-knowledge, group, breath, trauma, track, imagination, imitation; how they parallel modern understanding and practice, and how we can incorporate these practices into our lives for better everyday health.

**Friday, November 15 at 7 pm to Sunday, November 17 at 1 pm.** Early Registration (by October 15): Live-in \$355|Commuter \$285|Online \$230. Register at 780 459 5511 or at [www.starofthenorth.ca/monk](http://www.starofthenorth.ca/monk)

**Domestic Monastery:** A Public Lecture with Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI God is more domestic than monastic and is found more in your home than in your church. The domestic can also be the "monastic". Your marriage, your family, and your work can be your own monastery. The alarm clock that wakes you in the morning is your monastic bell and your work and duties each day are your monastic rhythm. Monks have secrets worth knowing. This presentation will draw wisdom from the monastic tradition to shed light on our own human and spiritual journey. Friday, November 29 at 7 pm. Early Registration (by Nov.1): \$25. Register at 780 459 5511 or at [www.starofthenorth.ca/domestic](http://www.starofthenorth.ca/domestic)

**Generative Discipleship:** Deeper Secrets in the Gospels, A retreat with Ron Rolheiser How do we move from being good to being great? How do we break the long-standing patterns and habits of mediocrity in our lives? How do we move beyond the last and deepest sadness of our lives? Come take a deeper look at the invitations that Jesus has given us to grow. The great mystics stated that when we reach the highest level of human maturity, only one question is left: How can I be more helpful? How can we be more mature and more generative? Friday, November 29 at 7 pm to Sunday, Dec. 1 at 1pm. Early Registration (by Nov. 1): Live-In \$355|Commuter \$285|Online \$230. Register at 780 459 5511 [www.starofthenorth.ca/domestic](http://www.starofthenorth.ca/domestic)



# be it done

## Pastoral Priorities of the Archdiocese

### worship

We are a faith community that understands and joyfully celebrates the Eucharist.

### witness

We are a faith community confident in proclaiming the Great Story to our work and life communities.

### service

We are a faith community that supports families, and recognizes marriage and family are the core of God's plan.

Learn more at: [CAedm.ca](http://CAedm.ca)

## PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE OR SEE THE WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT:

### Welcome New Parishioners

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Welcome! We value your friendship and your dedication to the life of this parish. Registration clearly announces your arrival in the parish and enables us to communicate with you as soon as possible. Opening the lines of communication between parish and family is very important. Parish membership is essential before some sacraments may be administered. This is particularly true of Baptism, Confirmation, and Marriage. Registration is an effective initiation tool into the life of the parish and helps us to best serve your interests and that of your family. A "New Parishioner Welcome" happens usually twice a year. Watch for the date in early Fall or in the New Year.



**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Infant Group Baptisms are celebrated during all seasons, except during Advent and Lent. We are accepting Infant Baptism registrations year round, from unborn baby to children under the age of 7. Baptism Preparation program is required for both parents and godparents. We offer 3 different options for both in-person and online preparations. In-person preparation classes are available on Dec 7, Jan 18, Feb 15 & Mar 15 from 10-11:30am while the Zoom meetings for the 2nd part of the "Belonging" online program are available on Nov 9, Dec 14, Jan 11, Feb 8 & Mar 8 from 10-11am. We strongly encourage families to register and complete their preparation as early as possible. Baptisms will be celebrated on Nov 17, January 5 & 26, Feb 23 (no Baptisms in Dec, Mar & Apr) more dates in 2025 are available on our website .

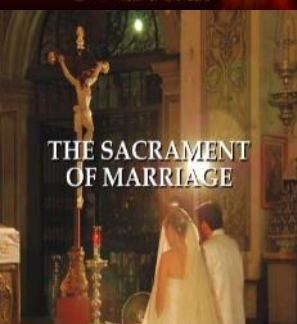
**For Later Baptism:** We are happy to accommodate children between the ages of 7 and 15, who would like to be baptized and receive all other age appropriate sacraments. All infant and children baptism requirements, preparation options and schedule details are available on our website in the [Baptism Requirements](#) document under [Sacrament and Baptism](#). Kindly email all baptism enquiries to [Baptism.STM@caedm.ca](mailto:Baptism.STM@caedm.ca) or contact Tracy/Bernardine at the office (780) 434 6313 for further assistance.



**SACRAMENT OF First Reconciliation & First Eucharist:** Most Catholic children receive their First Holy Communion when they are 7 or 8 years old as this is considered the age of reason. [Registration for 2024-2025 1st Reconciliation & 1st Holy Eucharist are now OPEN. To register your child please fill the \[Online Registration Form\]\(#\) or use the QR code](#)



**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** In the Archdiocese of Edmonton, most young people receive the sacrament when they are 11-12 years old. [Registration for 2024-2025 Confirmation are now OPEN. To register your child please fill the \[Online Registration Form\]\(#\) or use the QR code](#)



**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** "Time to buy the ring!" Please give 6 months notice in booking your wedding date! Time is needed to accommodate the preparation of wedding documents and attending a Catholic Marriage Preparation program. St. Thomas More runs its program annually in mid-March. Watch for details. Other programs are available in the Diocese. If you are considering a non-Catholic wedding, please don't! Civil weddings or ones done by a non-Catholic minister of religion are not sacramentally valid. The logic is simple. Weddings outside the church often result in families outside the church. Catholics are obliged to be married in the presence of a priest, in the consecrated space of a church dedicated to the celebration of all sacraments. Being married by a random person in a random place does not represent the kind of intention one would hope to have on one of the most anticipated days of one's life. Consider prayerfully the dignity of this sacrament of love at the service of the gospel, that, as St. Paul says, is a symbol of the love of Christ for His bride, the Church. We welcome the opportunity to support you in your journey towards the joyful celebration of your marriage!

**For later marriages:** For those married civilly or in a common-law arrangement, please consider completing the Sacrament of Marriage by a process of Convalidation. A suitable later marriage preparation can be made available to you. We are happy to accommodate you.

**Marriage Enrichment:** Marriage Enrichment Retreat dates Oct 21, 28, Nov 4, 18, 25 & Dec 2 & 9.

**RCIA:** Adults (16+years old) seeking to become Catholic, please speak to Paul Givens. Enquirers are always welcome. Please drop by the Parish office or call (780) 434 6313. This is also an opportunity for renewal of Catholic Adults. Runs early September to Easter/Pentecost. Meets Thurs evenings 7 to 9 pm.

**SICK OR SHUT-INS:** To request Holy Communion please call the parish office, (780) 434 6313.

