



ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

210 Haddow Close, Edmonton, AB T6R 2P3

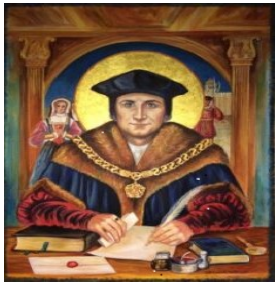
Office: 780 434 6313 Website: stm.caedm.ca

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



WEEKDAY LITURGIES, (DEC 03- DEC 06)

- Tue:** Confession/Mass: 4:15/5 pm
- Wed:** Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am
- Thurs:** Confession/Mass: 4:15/5 pm
- 1st Fri:** Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am

SUNDAY MASS TIMES, (DEC 07/DEC 08)

- 1st Saturday:** Mass at 9am
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, Dec 02:** Catholic School Mass (St. Boniface, St. Mary & St Theresa) at 9:30am, parishioners are welcome.
Confirmation Catechism (session 6)- 6pm to 8pm
Marriage Enrichment—7 to 9pm
Scripture Study, 7 to 9pm
- Tue, Dec 03:** Confession/Mass: 4:15/5 pm
Adult Confirmation Catechesis 7 to 9pm
CWL Fellowship 5:30 to 7:30pm
1st Reconciliation (Cycle 2)-classes, 5:50 to 6:50pm
Grief Support 7 to 9pm
- Wed, Dec 04:** MFO school Mass at 9:30am, parishioners are welcome
1st Reconciliation (Cycle 2)-classes, 5:50 to 6:50pm
- Thur, Dec 05:** Game Zone, 12:30 to 3:30pm
Confession/Mass: 4:15/5pm
1st Reconciliation (Cycle 2)-classes, 5:50 to 6:50pm
Children's choir 6 to 7pm
Adult Choir 7 to 10pm
RCIA 7 to 9pm
Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting at 7pm
- 1st Fri, Dec 06:** First Friday Observances, Mass at 9am, Adoration & Benediction at **11:30am**
Advent Waiting Holy Hour, 7 to 8:15pm
- 1st Sat, Dec 07:** Rosary/Mass at 8:30/9am
Baptism Preparation, in-person 10 to 11:30am
Advent Day of Confessions, 1 to 4pm
Confession/Mass: 3-4pm/4:30pm
- Sun, Dec 08:** Mass at 8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12:30pm
Family Movie Night at 6:30pm

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Mon, Dec 09:** **Sp. Mass at 7pm for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**
- Sat, Dec 14:** Knights of Columbus Senior's Dinner at 6pm
- Sun, Dec 15:** STM Scripture & Song Christmas Concert at 3pm
- Mon, Dec 16:** **Cycle 1: Confirmation Mass at 7pm**
- Wed, Dec 18:** Parish Pastoral Council Meeting at 7pm

Celebrating Anniversaries

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

Carolina Montufar & Jaime Cepeda
30th Wedding Anniversary on Dec 3

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



Advent Waiting Holy Hour

Friday, Dec 6, 13, & 20

7pm to 8:15pm

Join us for a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior this Christmas.

- Reflect on the mystery of Christ's incarnation
- Experience the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist
- Prepare your soul for the beauty of Christmas

Through reflection, scripture & prayerful recollection, let us embrace the gift of Advent—awaiting Emmanuel, God with us.



Sunday Gospel Reflection

By Deacon Tom



Do not be afraid. Do not Worry (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36)

Jesus tells us that the day of judgment will come upon all the earth, so we are to keep ourselves at the ready, praying and being alert at all times, for the cares of life can lead us to God or away from God. He uses the springing of a snare, or trap to describe how the Great Day of the Lord will come upon those caught by surprise.

Jesus describes in great detail that his followers will be persecuted, Jerusalem will be destroyed, and he will return to judge and save his followers on the day of redemption, which will be a day of punishment for the wicked but a day of salvation for the faithful.

Though the upheaval may cause much distress to others, Jesus tells us not to fear but to stand up and raise our heads when all this

happens, as for those who have been faithfully awaiting the revelation of God, this will not be a time of punishment but an advent of the new age of fulfillment.

Jesus Christ is well known to us from our prayers and sacraments, giving us confidence to be vigilant at all times and hope for the strength to endure as our redemption draws near.

As faithful believers, it is God's work in our lives that makes it possible for us to grow in love, to be strengthened in holiness and to be blameless when we stand before the Son of Man (Jesus) and receive the redemption he brings.

Winter Knits Collection: The Catholic Women's League is once again amazed by the generosity of STM parishioners. Hundreds of donated toques, along with many scarves and mittens, were sorted and delivered to the Marian Centre on Nov. 21—just in time for the snowfall. The recipients were deeply grateful! **E4c Lunch-Bag Collection:** Over \$10,000 was donated to e4c (Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation) to support their school nutrition program, which provides breakfast and lunch to hungry children in 42 schools every day. A heartfelt thank you from the CWL to everyone who contributed to this successful campaign. Your generosity is helping many children focus and learn. Tax receipts will be issued by e4c in the New Year.



Special Mass on Dec 9 at 7pm for the solemnity of the Feast of The Immaculate Conception.

Prayer for the Sick



PRAYER CORNER.....

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH: For those struggling with sickness, facing surgery, or in recovery, especially Lucy Longo, Darren Day, Clare Forton, Adolfo Cruz, Maria Longo, Marcella Cloran, Carl Blansjaar, Jackie Blansjaar, Orest & Therese Witwi, John Gougen, Betty McGowan, Pauline Modeste, Felipe Cortes, Frank Chu, Julie Lee, Andre Mickelson, Emily Stecyk, Luciana Fung, Joan Rempel, Avelino Callo, Marion Coderre, Tom Kenelly, Murt Kenelly, Americo Coco, Michael Cummings, Kelli Lavigne, Felix Moya, Israel Akhigbe, Ed & Louise Zawada

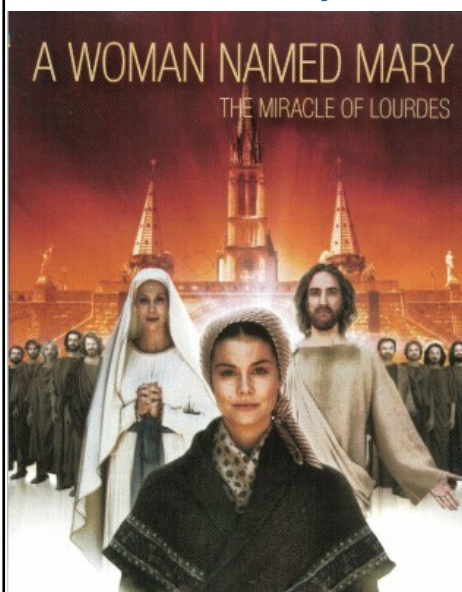
that they may be given the strength and guidance they seek.

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 Belinda Bernaldez, Shauna Chong, Anita Benito, Bill Grace, Isabel Werner, Lois Spenrath, Jana Van Driel, William Huk, Alma Monforte, Marie-Gabrielle Raworth (nee) Mahieu, & Msgr. Jack Hamilton that He will raise them up to live forever.

Family Movie Night



Where: STM

When: Sun, Dec 8 at 6:30pm on the Feast day of the Immaculate Conception.

Cost: Entrance & concession by free will donations, to support Pro Life causes.

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus!

Scripture and Song

MUSIC TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS

St. Thomas More Music Ministry

Invites you to an afternoon of scripture, song and prayer

Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 pm



St. Thomas More Catholic Church

210 HADDOW CLOSE
(CORNER OF 23 AVE AND TERWILLEGAR DRIVE)

A freewill offering will be taken

CWL Christmas Market

Date: Saturday, December 7th

Time: 9 am to 4 pm

Location: Parish Hall



Join us for a festive day of shopping, treats, and holiday fun! Discover unique gifts, delicious goodies, and support over 40 vendors at the market.

Highlights: Bake sale, book and puzzle sale, gift basket raffle – purchase tickets for a chance to win an amazing prize!

Calling all bakers! Parishioners are invited to contribute to the bake sale by dropping off homemade Christmas treats on **Friday, December 6th, from 3 pm to 7 pm** at the Parish Hall.

2024 Nativity Play

There's nothing like it... be part of the miracle!

Celebrating our 18th year! Experience the wonder of the Advent season with a **live theatre production** featuring all the key events:

- The Annunciation
- The Visitation
- Zechariah's Canticle
- King Herod, and more!

starring the children and youth of St. Thomas More parish.

Saturday, December 7th at 3pm
at The Orange Hub Theatre,
10045 - 156 Street

Tickets: \$25 (adults) \$15 (children)

Choose your seat online:

grindstone theatre.ca/calendar

Text/Call: (780) 717 5761

Join us for a heartwarming celebration of the season!



The **Advent Giving Tree** is a cherished tradition of St. Thomas More. We invite the support of our parish community to help the women and children of Lurana Shelter, a safe haven for those fleeing family violence.



You can participate by taking a star or angel from the Giving Tree, each labeled with a needed item, or by referring to the list of requested items posted beside the tree and on the parish website. Please note that all donated items must be **new, non-violent in theme, and unwrapped**.

Drop off your gifts by the Giving Tree in the gathering space of the church during Advent, from November 30 to December 22.

Gift cards are especially encouraged (suggested maximum: \$50). Purchasing gift cards through the Knights of Columbus allows your generosity to go even further, as it supports two causes at once.



Congratulations to the following 15 children who entered into the community of our Catholic church in November through the **Sacrament of Baptism**

Israel Ahhigbe, Tedros Alfazema, Charlize Alfazema, Charlotte Assimwe-Kagoro, Frielle Bau, Avielle Bueno, Leo Dagohoy, Elisha Domingo, Charbel Haddad, Amara Henderson, Kaden Lobo, Ricely Perri, Erik Ruffell, Luca Rolheiser & Agos Uy.

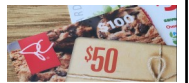
Please remember our new little brothers and sisters in Christ, in your prayers.



Please purchase your grocery cards as well as Boston Pizza & Tim Hortons gift cards at the church entrance.

Payments can be made by cash or credit card.

Proceeds from these sales support various church projects and other charitable initiatives.



Join us for a **Seniors (55+) Christmas Dinner on Saturday, Dec 14**

Tickets are \$25 each and can be

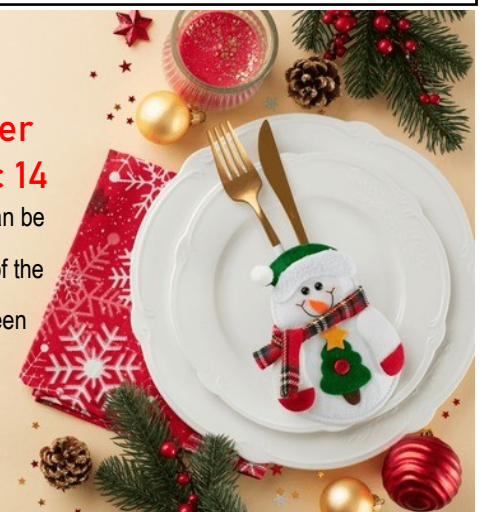
purchased at the entrance of the

church, this Sunday between

8:30AM and 11:00AM. .

Or call Wally Streit at

780-988-8719



Penitential Service in other parishes

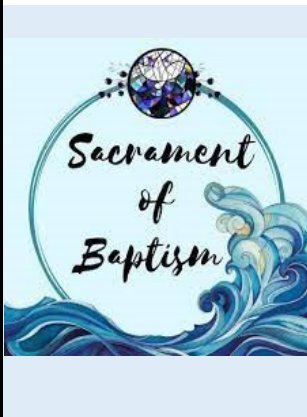
Holy Trinity	December 4, 7:00 PM
Corpus Christi,	December 11, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
St. Theresa	December 12, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
St. Andrew	December 21, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM



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



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.



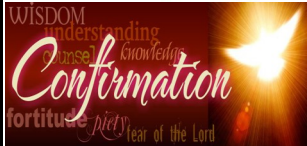
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Infant Group Baptisms are celebrated during all seasons, except during Advent and Lent. We are accepting Infant Baptism registrations year round, from unborn baby to children under the age of 7. Baptism Preparation program is required for both parents and godparents. We offer 3 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 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 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 or contact Tracy/Bernardine at the office (780) 434 6313 for further assistance.

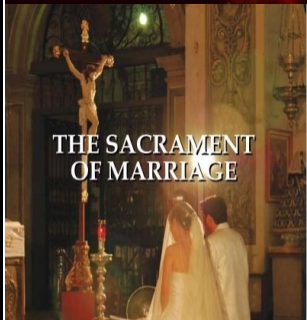


SACRAMENT OF First Reconciliation & First Eucharist: Most Catholic children receive their First Holy Communion when they are 7 or 8 years old as this is considered the age of reason. [Registration for Spring \(Cycle 3\) are now OPEN.](#)

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 2025 Confirmation Spring \(Cycle 2\) is 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 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.