



ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

210 Haddow Close, Edmonton, AB T6R 2P3

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

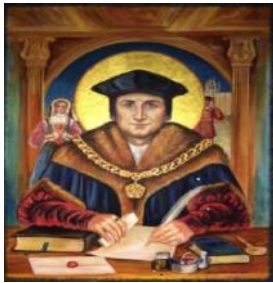
Pastor: **Fr. Mark McGee**

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

3rd Sunday of Advent December 15, 2024



WEEKDAY LITURGIES, (DEC 17- DEC 20)

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

SUNDAY MASS TIMES, (DEC 21/DEC 22)

- 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)

I baptize with water

HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Mon, Dec 16:** (Cycle 1)Confirmation Mass at 7pm
Scripture Study, 7 to 9pm
- Tue, Dec 17:** Confession/Mass: 4:15/5 pm
CWL Advent celebration and potluck, 6pm
Grief Support 7 to 9pm
- Wed, Dec 18:** Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am
Archbishop Joseph MacNeil school Mass at 1pm
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting at 7pm
- Thur, Dec 19:** Game Zone resumes Jan 16
Confession/Mass: 4:15/5pm
Children's choir 6 to 7pm
Adult Choir 7 to 9:45pm
RCIA 7 to 9pm
- Fri, Dec 20:** Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am
Advent Waiting Holy Hour, 7 to 8:15pm
- Sat, Dec 21:** Confession/Mass: 3-4pm/4:30pm
- Sun, Dec 22:** Mass at 8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12:30pm

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

101 students & 12 adults will receive the sacrament of **Confirmation on **December 16 at 7pm.****



Sacrament of Marriage

Step 1: When preparing for marriage is to talk with our Pastor, Father Mark. Catholic Marriage Preparation will take place on March 14 to 16, 2025, at our parish.

Register bit.ly/MarriagePrep2025

The registration deadline is on February 14, 2025.



Marriage Preparation

Advent Waiting Holy Hour

Friday, Dec 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.



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.



Sunday Gospel Reflection

By Deacon Tom



Rejoice, The Lord is Near! (Luke 3:10-18)

We are at the midpoint of Advent, Gaudette Sunday, and it is a time of joy, not just because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Jesus, but because God is already among us.

John the Baptist challenged the crowds, tax collectors and soldiers to a new way of relating to each other. Like Jesus, John preached repentance (a change of mind and heart) to all who came to him and like those he spoke to, John the Baptist is also counseling us to know who we are and to recognize the extent of our occupational privileges.

Those who enjoy the blessings of material goods are to share them with the poor. Those who exercise power over others are to promote social justice and avoid corruption, and those who serve as protectors

of society are not to abuse their positions and be happy with their wages (a reference to the tenth commandment, not to covet what belongs to others).

God is with us, not as a judge but as a savior and we should realize that we are children of God, willing to stand honestly and humbly before him, confident in his care and unafraid of whatever faces us in our lives.

We too shall "bear witness to the light" allowing our faith to bring light to those still in darkness, enabling them to also hear the Good News as we continue to walk with our brothers and sisters on the path of salvation, the road to heaven.

The **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** would like to thank everyone who donated to help those in need in conjunction with the World Day for the Poor and for all the donations you've made over the past year. Your contributions of food donations, financial donations, grocery cards as well as ALL other donations were greatly appreciated and will go a long way towards helping us provide for those in need in our community.



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. Next Sunday is the final day of collections.



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 Lucy Longo, Darren Day, Clare Forton, Adolfo Cruz, Maria Longo, Marcella Cloran, Carl Blansjaar, Jackie Blansjaar, Orest & Therese Witiw, John Gougen, Betty McGowan, Pauline Modeste, Felipe Cortes, Frank Chu, Julie Lee, Andre Mickelson, Ashley West, Luciana Fung, Joan Rempel, Marion Coderre, Tom Kenelly, Murt Kenelly, Americo Coco, Michael Cummings, Sandy Jungblut, Erin Gaudet, Kelli Lavigne, Felix Moya, Israel Akhigbe, James Villanueva, Sandy Jungblut, Ashley West, 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 Lois Spenrath, Jana Van Driel, William Huk, Belinda Bernaldez, Alma Monforte, Antonietta Buono, Marie-Gabrielle Raworth (nee) Mahieu, Marcelle Labrecque, Avelino Callo, Antonietta Buono, Connor Maimann, Bishop Frederick Henry, Rev. Raymond Guimond & Msgr. Jack Hamilton that He will raise them up to live forever.

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

Christmas at St. Thomas More



ADVENT DAY OF CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY, DEC. 7

11 AM - 1 PM FOR CHILDREN IN SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION
1 - 4 PM FOR ALL

SCRIPTURE & SONG CONCERT

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

3 PM
FREEWILL OFFERING

CHRISTMAS MASSES

TUESDAY, DEC. 24

3 PM - 5 PM - 7 PM - 9 PM - 10:30 PM
12 MIDNIGHT (WITH INCENSE)

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25

9 AM - 11 AM (WITH INCENSE)

MASS SCHEDULE

MON. DEC. 23 - NO MASS
THURS. DEC. 26 - NO MASS
FRI. DEC. 27 - NO MASS
SAT. DEC. 28 - NO 9 AM MASS
SAT. DEC. 28 - 4:30 PM VIGIL MASS
SUN. DEC. 29 - 8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 PM
MON. DEC. 30 - NO MASS
TUES. DEC. 31 - NO 9 AM MASS
TUES. DEC. 31 - 5 PM VIGIL MASS
WED. JAN. 1 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
(NEW YEAR'S DAY) 9 AM AND 11 AM
THURS. JAN. 2 - NO MASS
FRI. JAN. 3 - 9 AM MASS FOR 1ST FRIDAY WITH
ADORATION TO FOLLOW. BENEDICTION AT 12 NOON
SAT. JAN. 4 - 9 AM MASS FOR 1ST SATURDAY

REGULAR WEEKEND SCHEDULE RESUMES JAN. 4/5

*The office will be closed Dec. 23 (4 pm) until Jan. 3 (9 am).
No confessions will be heard after Dec. 21 until Jan. 4
when regularly scheduled confession times resume.*



2024 donations can be made at
the office until Dec. 23, and up
to Dec. 31 online or by
electronic money transfer to:
stm.etransfer@caedm.ca

780-434-6313 + 210 Haddow Close + Edmonton AB + stm.caedm.ca

Christmas Blessings

My dear friends,

May the Spirit of this Advent bring us the joy of giving, loving and caring.

May the celebration of Jesus' birth be a treasured gift for ourselves and others - a gift of truthfulness, faithfulness and openness to the Spirit. May Jesus' love be our way to grow and mature as Christians.

May the Blessings of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon all of you and your families this Christmas season and throughout 2025.

My sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the beauty of our worship in this holy season.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Mark McGee, Pastor

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

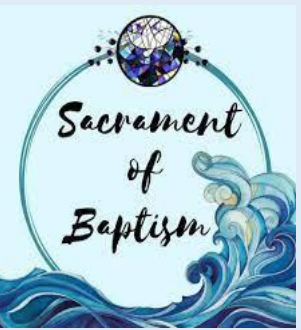
We are a faith community that supports families, and recognizes marriage and family are the core of God's plan.

Learn more at: CAedm.ca

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 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 .

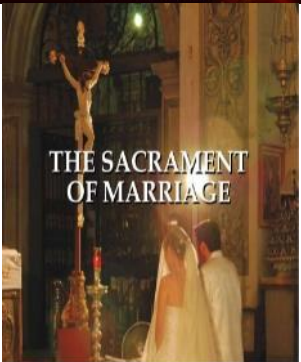
For Later Baptism: We are happy to accommodate children between the ages of 7 and 15, who would like to be baptized and receive all other age appropriate sacraments. All infant and children baptism requirements, preparation options and schedule details are available on our website in the [Baptism Requirements](#) 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 \(Spring Cycle 3\) 2025 is 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 \(Spring Cycle 2\) 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: This one day, "Christ at the Center" retreat (Feb. 22nd, 2025) is your opportunity to refocus your marriage on Christ. Even when a marriage is going smoothly, there are always opportunities to make it work better.



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.