



# 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

## 4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024



### WEEKDAY LITURGIES, (DEC 23- DEC 27)

Please refer to Christmas Mass times.

### SUNDAY MASS TIMES, (DEC 28/DEC 29)

**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)



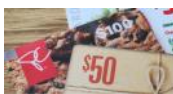
### THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Mon, Dec 23:** No Mass
- Tue, Dec 24:** Christmas Eve Masses  
3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm, 9 pm, 10:30 pm, Midnight
- Wed, Dec 25:** Christmas Day Masses  
9 am and 11 am
- Thur, Dec 26:** Church Closed
- Fri, Dec 27:** Church Closed
- Sat, Dec 28:** Mass: 4:30pm (no regularly scheduled confes-)
- Sun, Dec 29:** Mass at 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am & 12:30 pm  
Young Families Ministry 9:30 am Mass with  
Potluck Brunch to follow

Please pray for all the youth and adults who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on December 16.



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** 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.



### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Resumes January 3, 2025

- Mon, Dec 30:** Church Closed
- Tue, Dec 31:** Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
5 pm Vigil Mass
- Wed, Jan 1:** Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Mass at 9 am and 11 am
- Thur, Jan 2** Church Closed

### 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](http://bit.ly/MarriagePrep2025)

The registration deadline is on February 14, 2025.





# Sunday Gospel Reflection

By Deacon Tom



## Fulfillment of Promises (Luke 1:39-45)

There is always excitement at this time of year as everything is filled with promise. God is fulfilling the ancient promises about the coming Messiah and speaks of 'lowliness', 'humility' and 'hiddenness'. Mary and Joseph, after answering Angelic messages with faith, promise to participate in God's design for our salvation.

Mary's staying with Elizabeth until the time of her cousin's delivery, shows us her charitable service and support, how she is blessed for her humble faith and is a model for all of us. This is the selflessness Mary's son Jesus would later teach us as foretold in the First Reading (Hebrews), "See, God, I have come to do your will". This divine person that was sacrificed for our salvation, the body that consecrated us through having been offered up, fulfilling the promises made by God, was the child that grew in the womb of Mary.

Advent is the fulfillment of an event that has already taken place and we remember it and ritually reenact it so that we never take it for granted, or ever forget that it is in and through salvation history that the marvelous deeds of God are accomplished. The celebration of anticipation is also the celebration of fulfillment, fulfillment of the promises made, fulfillment of our redemption and fulfillment of our transformation.

Let us clothe our souls in the state of sanctifying grace and receive the Christ Child into our body on Christmas day in the form of Holy Communion, making our heart his crib.

## FAMILY ADORATION & POTLUCK FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

DECEMBER 29, 2024

9:30 MASS

10:45 TEACHING AND BRUNCH



### 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 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, especially for Jana Van Driel, 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, Rev. Donald MacDonald & Msgr. Jack Hamilton that He will raise them up to live forever.

On Sunday December 29 the Young Family Ministry will meet following 9:30 mass for a potluck continental brunch. This ministry is open to families with elementary aged children or younger. Sign up at Young Family Ministry <https://stmedmonton.flocknote.com/signup/178919>



# CHRISTMAS MASSES

**TUESDAY, DEC. 24**

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

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25**



## 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](mailto:stm.etransfer@caedm.ca)

780-434-6313 + 210 Haddow Close + Edmonton AB + [stm.caedm.ca](http://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



A Jubilee Year is a significant moment in the life of the Church in which she celebrates a year of favour. Proclaimed every 25 years since the 13th century, the celebration of jubilee years typically includes pilgrimages, processions, celebrations of Mass, and an invitation to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In the Archdiocese of Edmonton, there will be a number of opportunities throughout the year to embark on the "Pilgrimage of Hope," including:

**Solemn Opening of the Jubilee Year - Holy Mass at St. Joseph's Basilica. Sunday, December 29, 10:30 am.** Celebrated by Archbishop Richard Smith. **All are welcome!**

**National Shrine to the Canadian Martyrs Relics Tour. Wednesday, January 22.** Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples (9:00am-12:00pm) and Corpus Christi Parish, Edmonton (2:00-8:00pm).

**"I Believe..."** A seven-part catechesis series on the Nicene Creed, marking the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. **Starts Thursday, February 13** with sessions in March, April, May, September, October, November. Presented in partnership with Newman Theological College and St. Joseph's College-University of Alberta.

More information will be provided throughout the Jubilee year at <https://caedm.ca/jubilee>



### 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

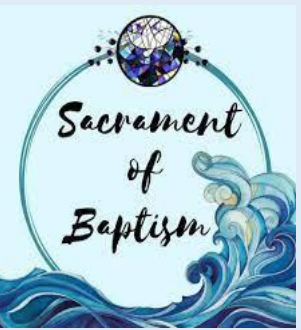
We are a faith community that supports families, and recognizes marriage and family are the core of God's plan.

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

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



**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 .

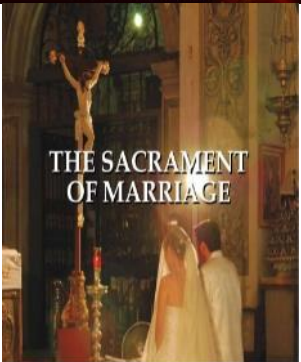
**For Later Baptism:** We are happy to accommodate children between the ages of 7 and 15, who would like to be baptized and receive all other age appropriate sacraments. All infant and children baptism requirements, preparation options and schedule details are available on our website in the [Baptism Requirements](#) document under [Sacrament and Baptism](#). Kindly email all baptism enquiries to [Baptism.STM@caedm.ca](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 \(Spring Cycle 3\) 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.