



# ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

210 Haddow Close, Edmonton, AB T6R 2P3

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

Pastor: **Fr. Mark McGee**

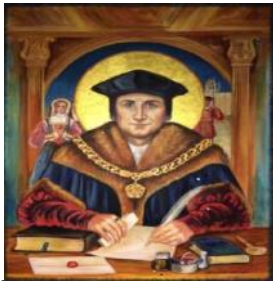
Associate Pastor: **Fr. Avinash Francis**

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

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 08, 2024

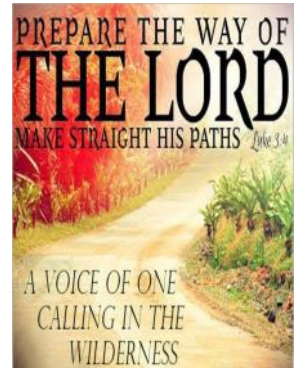


### WEEKDAY LITURGIES, (DEC 10– DEC 13)

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

### SUNDAY MASS TIMES, (DEC 14/DEC 15)

- 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 09:** Confirmation Catechism (session 7)- 6pm to 8pm  
Marriage Enrichment—7 to 9pm  
Special Mass at 7pm for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of our Blessed Virgin Mary
- Tue, Dec 10:** Funeral of Marcelle Labrecque at 11am  
Confession/Mass: 4:15/5 pm  
CWL Fellowship 5:30 to 7:30pm  
Liturgy Committee meeting at 7pm  
Grief Support 7 to 9pm  
Knights of Columbus meeting at 7pm
- Wed, Dec 11:** Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am  
Scripture Study, 7 to 9pm
- Thur, Dec 12:** Game Zone, 12:30 to 3:30pm, (Christmas break to follow)  
Confession/Mass: 4:15/5pm  
Children's choir 6 to 7pm  
Adult Choir 7 to 9:45pm  
RCIA 7 to 9pm
- Fri, Dec 13:** Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am  
Advent Waiting Holy Hour, 7 to 8:15pm
- Sat, Dec 14:** First Eucharist Accommodated prep at 10am to 12pm  
Baptism Preparation, Online Belonging (zoom) at 10am  
Confession/Mass: 3-4pm/4:30pm  
Knights of Columbus Seniors Christmas Dinner at 6pm  
Verso L'Alto/Duc in Altum at 5:30 to 8pm
- Sun, Dec 15:** Mass at 8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12:30pm  
Christmas Scripture & Song Concert at 3pm

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

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Mon, Dec 16:** Cycle 1: Confirmation Mass at 7pm
- Wed, Dec 18:** Parish Pastoral Council Meeting at 7pm
- Fri, Dec 20:** Advent Waiting Holy Hour, 7 to 8:15pm
- Dec 24, to Jan 2** Office is closed, Dec 23 (4pm) until Jan 3 (9am), (open half day on 31st Dec)



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

### Advent Waiting Holy Hour

Friday, Dec 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.



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



## Let us Prepare the Way (Luke 3:1-6)

As John went into the wilderness to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus, we are being asked to prepare ourselves for Jesus when he comes on Christmas day.

In salvation history, the wilderness or desert, held a painful yet privileged position. It recalled Israel's period of testing and rebellion, along with being a place of grace and revelation. To go into the wilderness, means facing our vulnerabilities, weaknesses and sins and experiencing repentance and renewal. The demands of the wilderness uncover the hardness of our hearts, allowing them to be broken open as we encounter God.

John proclaims repentance, the kind of transformation that results in a

change of heart. This transformation takes place within our lives, our relationships and with others through genuine unselfish love as our eyes of faith are opened.

The repentant heart does good to others because God's love has been so great to it. One of the fruits of genuine repentance, of a life that has turned back to God, is sharing what we have, joyfully.

Today we are being asked to imitate John the Baptist in preparing the way for Jesus by removing all obstacles and crooked ways in our life. We do this by reading Gods' Word, praying, and removing any and all sin from our life.



**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**

**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.

### 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 Belinda Bernaldez, Alma Monforte, Shauna Chong, Anita Benito, Bill Grace, Isabel Werner, Lois Spennath, Jana Van Driel, William Huk, Belinda Bernaldez, Alma Monforte, Antonietta Buono, Marie-Gabrielle Raworth (nee) Mahieu, Marcelle Labrecque, Avelino Callo, Antonietta Buono & 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](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



# 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

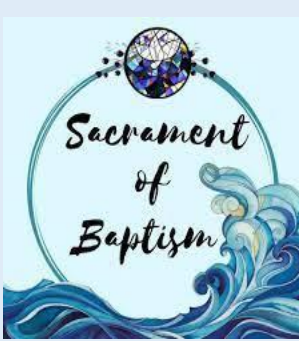
We are a faith community that supports families, and recognizes marriage and family are the core of God's plan.

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

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



**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.

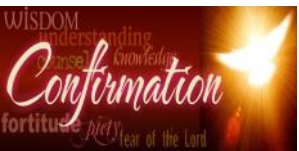


**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Infant Group Baptisms are celebrated during all seasons, except during Advent and Lent. We are accepting Infant Baptism registrations year round, from unborn baby to children under the age of 7. Baptism Preparation program is required for both parents and godparents. We offer 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 .

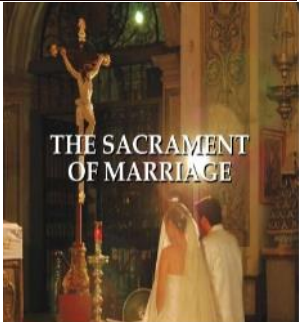
**For Later Baptism:** We are happy to accommodate children between the ages of 7 and 15, who would like to be baptized and receive all other age appropriate sacraments. All infant and children baptism requirements, preparation options and schedule details are available on our website in the [Baptism 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



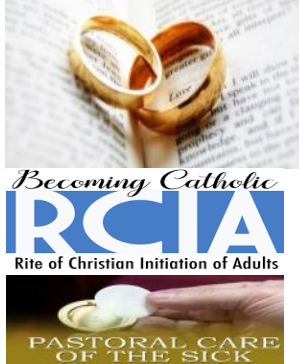
**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** In the Archdiocese of Edmonton, most young people receive the sacrament when they are 11-12 years old. [Registration for 2025 \(Spring Cycle 2\) is now OPEN.](#) To register your child please fill the [Online Registration Form](#) or use the QR code



**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 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.