

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

210 Haddow Close, Edmonton, AB T6R 2P3 Tel: 780 434 6313 Website: stm.caedm.ca email: communications.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 Lent March 23, 2025

WEEKDAY LITURGIES, (MAR 25 – 28)

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, (MAR 29/30)

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)



If it bears fruit next year, fine!
If not, cut it down.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- Tue, Mar 25:**
- Confession/Mass: 4:15/5pm
 - CWL Fellowship, 5:30 to 7:30pm
 - CWL General Meeting, 7 to 9:30pm
 - Grief as a Journey at 7pm
- Wed, Mar 26:**
- Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am
- Thur, Mar 27:**
- Confession/Mass: 4:15/5pm
 - **No Game Zone**, Spring Break
 - Children's Choir 6pm to 7pm
 - Adult Choir 7pm to 9:45pm
 - RCIA 7pm to 9pm
- Fri, Mar 28:**
- Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am
 - Funeral of Blanche Gibeau at 11am
 - **Way of the Cross 7 to 8pm (Mores men Lectors)**
 - Movie Night, "A Man for all Seasons" after The Way of the Cross
-  Stations of the Cross
- Sat, Mar 29:**
- Knights of Columbus, Exemplification 9am to 12pm
 - Confession/Mass: 3-4pm/4:30pm
- Sun, Mar 30:**
- Mass at 8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12:30pm
 - Pancake breakfast after 8 & 9:30am Masses

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



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Tue, Wed, Thurs Apr 1,2,3:** 1st Reconciliation classes (cycle 3), 5:50pm to 6:50pm
- Sat, Apr 5:** Confessions for 1st Reconciliation kids at 12 to 1pm
Lenten Day of Confessions for Parish, 1pm to 4pm
- Mon, Apr 7:** In-person Baptism prep, 7pm to 8:30pm
- Tue, Apr 8:** Easter Liturgical Workshop, 7pm to 10pm

LENTEN Day of Confessions

April 5, 1 to 4pm



Sunday Gospel Reflection

By Deacon Tom



Time to Repent (Luke 13:1-9)

Jesus teaches us two lessons today. First, we never know what lies ahead for us, and though accidents or illnesses are not punishments from God, we must always be reconciled with God or we will all perish (spiritually) as the Galileans did (physically).

The second is a parable which demonstrates the mercy of God. The owner of the fig tree had every right to expect his tree to bear fruit and there is probably no theological significance to the number three, as it merely represents a sufficient period of time.

God is both the owner and the gardener, willing to give us 'sufficient' time to repent. When we are needy, God comes as provider; when we are frightened, God comes as comforter and strength; when we are disobedient and defiant, God comes as judge and disciplinarian as he

cannot allow a fruitless tree to sap the life out of the soil that nourishes other plants.

Though we are not told whether the fig tree ever did bear fruit, Jesus is telling us that God provides for our maturing in righteousness and though God may be patient with our procrastination, we risk God's judgment if we disregard His grace.

The fig tree (some individuals) will die spiritually because of their inactivity and disregard of God's grace as Jesus tells us that "unless you repent, you will all perish."

Let us therefore be reconciled with God (through the Sacrament of Reconciliation) and not be a barren fig tree, but bear fruit abundantly.

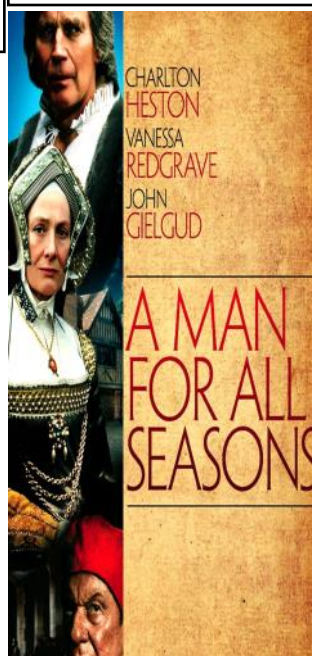
"By My Side" is a 6 week virtual program of spiritual friendship & healing for separated and divorced Catholics. **STARTS MARCH 29, 2025** from 9 to 11 am EST (7 am to 10 am MST). All classes are hosted virtually helping participants find their way to Reconciliation, peace and hope through Christ and the church.



Started 9 years ago, "By My Side" comes with helpful resources, 6 virtual 2 hour weekly classes, 2 virtual follow-up classes, monthly blog posts offering MJ's Spiritual Food for Thought, and more. It is a non-profit structured support group and a payment of \$40 is asked to cover resources and promotion. **To register or learn more, go to: www.bymyside.ca**

Building Hope & Dignity Gala- Mark Your Calendar: The SSVP Edmonton Central Council is holding its first-ever fundraising Gala on **June 5 at the Chateau Lacombe**. Proceeds will be split between SSVP Edmonton Central Council and the North of 60 Project which sends food and other needed items to nine communities in the western Arctic. Please consider joining for an evening of fine dining, inspiring speakers, and a chance to win a great prize in the raffle or live auction. Tickets are \$250 each or \$2000 for a table of 8, part of which will be returned as a tax receipt. To buy your tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/SSVP-Gala-2025>. For more information: gala@ssvpedmonton.ca or 825-582-SSVP (7787).

Knights of Columbus Family Movie Night - March 28th



Join us for a special evening of faith and history at the Knights of Columbus Family Movie Night, which will take place **following the Stations of the Cross at 7pm**. We will be screening the multiple Academy Award-winning film, **A Man for All Seasons**, which powerfully depicts the final six years of the life of **St. Thomas More**, our parish patron saint. The movie explores the courageous stand of Thomas More, the 16th-century Lord Chancellor of England, who refused to sign a letter petitioning Pope Clement VII to annul King Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon. More also refused to take the **Oath of Supremacy**, declaring Henry VIII as the Supreme Head of the Church of England. This inspiring story of integrity, faith, and moral conviction will be a meaningful way for families to come together and reflect on the example of St. Thomas More. We hope to see you there!



"Happy Birthday Fr. Avinash!"

We are grateful for your presence at St. Thomas More Parish. May God bless you with abundant blessings on this day and many more to come!!

27 March



Thanks to everyone who attended our special Lenten Mission Mass on Tuesday, Mar 18, followed by Adoration, Night Prayer & Benediction! It was a beautiful evening, made even more solemn & inspiring by the ministry of our Choir. Thank you all.

Fr. Mark



Banns of Marriage- Third Call

Augustine Okoh Benard

&

Osamede Lucy Eke



Congratulations to the following 19 children who entered into the community of our Catholic church in February & March through the *Sacrament of Baptism* Avery Nwokoye, Aiden Nwokoye, Zeenan Dorado, Kyna Dorado, Chikezie Agbo, Antoine Cazaux, Claire Drebit, Moriah Lau Kilo, Meisha Lee, Kirby Teleb, Anaiah Teleb, Elicea Olaitan, Narsus Manacmul, Nathan Scott, Noah Solatorio, Yuri Wong, Danielle Onuorah, Oluwasemilore Coker & Madison Seaman. **Please remember our new little brothers and sisters in Christ, in your prayers.**



Way of the Cross

every Friday during Lent at 7pm on the following days:

March 28, April 4 & 11.



I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

“Spaces for **Infant Baptism** on May 4, 2025 are filling up quickly! To begin the process, please email baptism.stm@caedm.ca or call the office to speak with Tracy or Dorothy”.

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH
LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2025

The **STM Ladies Auxiliary** was formed in 1978. Although our activities have changed over the years, our mission has always been to support those in need. Right now we are making quilts for donation to WINGS (Women In Need Growing Stronger), the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Lurana Shelter, the Marion Centre, and other charities. Our group meets on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 in the choir room. We welcome new members and “guests” to come and see what we do or share a cup of coffee. No experience is necessary! We do sell some of our quilts and needlework items to provide funds for purchasing supplies. We appreciate donations of fabric and yarn for our crafts. Donations should be labeled “Ladies Auxiliary” and left in the choir room. Items that we don’t use are passed on to other groups. Contacts: Judy, 780-462-1555, or Karen, otis9@shaw.ca

LENTEN SERVICES

ASH WEDNESDAY March 5

9 am, 5 pm, 7:30 pm
There will be no confessions on Ash Wednesday

DAY OF CONFESSIONS Saturday April 5

12 noon - 1 pm for First Reconciliation
1 pm - 4 pm for all parishioners



780-454-6515
stm.caedm.ca

WAY OF THE CROSS

Friday evenings during Lent at 7 pm
March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28, April 4, April 11

LENTEN MISSION

Celebrated by Archbishop Richard Smith
Tuesday March 18
Mass at 7 pm followed by Adoration

HOLY WEEK

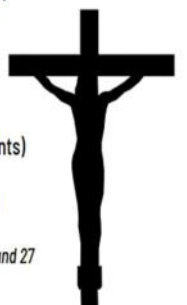
Palm (Passion) Sunday - Sat. April 12 - 4:30 pm, 7 pm
Sun. April 13 - 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 12 noon, 7 pm
Mon. April 14 - no mass (Chrism Mass at St. Joseph Basilica)
Tues. April 15 - Mass 8:30 am
Wed. April 16 - Mass 8:30 am
Holy Thursday - April 17: 7 pm* *with incense
Good Friday - April 18: 9 am, 12 noon, 3 pm
Holy Saturday - Apr. 19: 1 pm Blessing of Easter Baskets
Easter Vigil - April 19: 8 pm*
Easter Sunday - April 20: 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm*

Regularly scheduled confessions are suspended during Holy Week and the week after Easter during the Easter Octave.

EASTER OCTAVE

Mon. April 21 - no mass
Tues. April 22 - Mass at 5 pm
Wed. April 23 - Mass at **9:30 am** (with school students)
Thurs. April 24 - Mass at 5 pm
Fri. April 25 - Mass at **10 am** (with school students)

The regular weekend mass schedule resumes on April 26 and 27



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 Greg Nelson, Lucy Longo, Maria Longo, Darren Day, Clare Forton, Marcella Cloran, Carl & Jackie Blansjaar, Orest & Therese Witiw, Veronica Sprysak, Julie Lee, Jack Macken, Ashley West, Luciana Fung, Joan Rempel, Flor John Villacillo, Michael Cummings, Sandy Jungblut, Erin Gaudet, Kelli Lavigne, Felix Moya, Baby Elijah Bota, Ashley West, Stelios Kiliaris, Coen Padilla, Marcus Cruz, Alfred Morrill, Anni Mary, Andrew Cave, Diane Costigan, Mary Anne Day & Pope Francis 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 Lorelle Wheat, Nicole Lacousiere, Gail Turchansky, Fred Shinkaruk, Ralph Falvo, Wayne MacDonald, Helen Ulep, Lois Comeau, Barry Haubeur, Adolfo Cruz Jr., Joyce Makarowski, Lucie Baril, Blanche Gibeau & Claudette Cecotka (Demers) that He will raise them up to live forever.

Remembering Our Dead

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

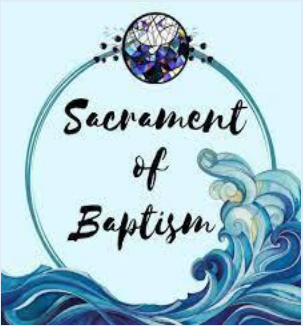
We are a faith community that supports families, and recognizes marriage and family are the core of God's plan.

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.



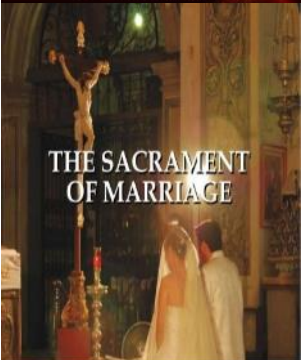
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: Infant Group Baptisms are celebrated year-round, except during Advent and Lent. We accept **Infant Baptism** registrations from unborn baby to children under the age of 7 and **Later Baptism** registrations for children between the ages of 7 and 15, who would like to be baptized and receive all other age-appropriate sacraments. A Baptism Preparation program is required for both parents and godparents, and we offer both, in-person and online preparation options. Upcoming In-person preparation classes for Infants are on April 7 & 26, May 5 & 10. Baptisms will be celebrated on May 4, 25 (full), June 22, July 13 & 27. More dates for preparation and Baptism for 2025—2026 are available on our website in the [Baptism Requirements](#) document under [Sacraments-Baptism](#). Please email all baptism enquiries to Baptism.STM@caedm.ca or contact Tracy 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. [Stay tuned for our Summer Intensive class!](#)



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: In the Archdiocese of Edmonton, most young people receive the sacrament when they are 11-12 years old. [Stay tuned for our Summer Intensive class!](#)



SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: "Time to buy the ring!" Please give 6 months notice in booking your wedding date! Step one is to meet with the priest, even before booking a hall. 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.



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 Thursday evenings 7 to 9 pm.



SICK OR SHUT-INS: To request Holy Communion please call the parish office, (780) 434 6313. [Volunteers needed!!](#)