



ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH

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Dear Parishioners,

In the coming weeks, St. Thomas More Parish will take a meaningful step in our ongoing liturgical renewal: the relocation of our tabernacle from the side chapel to the center of the sanctuary. This decision, made after prayerful discernment and in consultation with our parish leadership - reflects the deep Catholic instinct to place the Eucharistic Presence of Christ at the heart of the church, visibly and spiritually. The tabernacle is more than a symbol; it is the dwelling place of the Living Christ, the same Jesus who remains with us in the Sacrament of His love.

As Venerable Fulton J. Sheen once said, *"You should never have to walk into a Catholic church and ask, 'Where is the tabernacle?'"* By returning the tabernacle to the sanctuary, we are expressing in a visible way that Christ is truly at the center of our worship, our parish life, and our hearts.

During a period of transition, the **side chapel will be unavailable**. This change will allow our parish to focus on catechesis and formation, reflecting on the altar as the central place of sacrifice and worship during the Holy Mass - from the opening hymn to the end of the recessional hymn.

As St. John Chrysostom beautifully reminds us: *"When you see the Lord immolated and lying upon the altar, and the priest standing and praying over the victim... can you think you are still among men, and on earth? Are you not lifted up to Heaven?"*

Once the tabernacle has been moved to its new place within the sanctuary, the side chapel will reopen eventually as an Adoration Chapel for personal prayer. Through this renewal, both spaces will invite us to encounter the Lord in the Sanctuary before the Tabernacle or in the Adoration chapel before His Eucharistic Presence in exposition. The Adoration chapel will take some time to be properly established but the end goal will be well worth the wait.

This renewal aligns closely with the **first pastoral priority of the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton: Formation for Eucharistic Worship** – *We are a faith community that joyfully celebrates and better understands the Eucharist.*

May this time of transition deepen our love and reverence for the Eucharist and strengthen our unity as a parish family. Together, let us welcome this renewal with gratitude, joy, and devotion to Christ - *the source and summit of our faith.*

Yours in Christ,

Father Mark McGee
Pastor

"I die the king's good servant, but God's first."

—St. Thomas More