



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** Supply Priest: **Fr. Jozef Wroblewski** Seminary Intern: **Noah Kungel**

Permanent Deacons: **Randy Abele, Tom Sudsbear & Gordon Taylor**

Office Hours: Mon - Thu 9 am - 9 pm | Fri 9 am - 4 pm | Sat 8:30am - 2 pm | Sun 1 pm - 4:30 pm, Closed on Stat Holidays

November 30, 2025

1st Sunday of Advent



WEEKDAY LITURGIES (DEC 2 – DEC 5)

Tue: Confession/Mass: 4:15/5pm

Wed: **Mass: 9:30am (no Confessions)**

Thurs: Confession/Mass: 4:15/5pm

1st Fri: Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am

SUNDAY MASS TIMES (DEC 6 & 7)

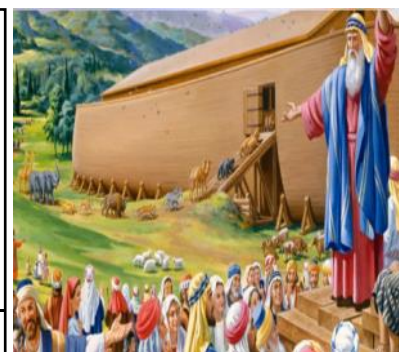
Saturday: Communal Rosary 3:55/Mass 4:30 pm

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)



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

Stay awake! Be ready!

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sun, Nov 30: Mass at 8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12:30pm
Accommodated Baptisms at 2:30pm

Mon, Dec 1: Scripture Study at 7pm
Baptism Prep, 7 to 8:30pm

Tue, Dec 2: Confession/Mass: 4:15/5pm
Adult Confirmation Class #1, 7 to 9pm

Wed, Dec 3: School Mass at 9:30am w/parishioners (no Confessions)

Thurs, Dec 4: **Funeral for Michael Cummings at 11am**
Game Zone, 12:30 to 3:30pm
Confession/Mass: 4:15/5pm
Children's choir at 6:15pm
Adult choir at 7pm
Grief as a Journey to Emmaus, 7 to 9pm
Knights of Columbus Executive meeting at 7pm

1st Fri, Dec 5: Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am
First Friday 1st Friday Adoration & Benediction, 9:30 to **11am**
Advent Waiting Holy Hour, 7 to 8:15pm

1st Sat, Dec 6: Rosary before Mass at 8:30am
FIRST SATURDAY Mass at 9am



CWL Christmas Market, 9am to 4pm
Advent Day of Confessions, 11am to 4pm

Confession/Mass: 3-4pm/4:30pm
Carmelite Sale after all Masses

Sun, Dec 7: Mass at 8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12:30pm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mon. Dec. 8: Special Mass at 7pm for Solemnity of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tue. Dec. 9: Adult Confirmation Class #2, 7 to 9pm

Sat. Dec 13: St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Thanksgiving, 12 to 3:30pm
Baptism Prep, 10 to 11:30am

ADVENT WAITING HOLY HOUR

Fridays: Dec 5, 12, & 19 from 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.



The next **MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

program at St. Thomas More will take place on March 20-22, 2026. For information and to register <https://stmedmonton.flocknote.com/signup/226736>

and complete the form. The registration deadline is on February 20, 2026.

Sunday Gospel Reflection

By Deacon Tom



Let us Prepare (Matthew 24:37-44)

During this holy season of Advent we are being called to prepare ourselves to celebrate the first coming of Christ, as our Brother and Savior. The word "Advent" means 'coming' and these four weeks represent the thousands of years the people of the Old Testament waited for the coming of our Savior.

If we let the full meaning of Christmas enter into our innermost being, welcoming the Son of God in the form of the Baby in Bethlehem, with a clean, sincere and grateful heart, then each year of our lives will be a big step on our road to heaven.

Isaiah instructs us that we must put away our instruments of violence and hatred, our swords and our spears; Peter, tells us to put away our deeds of darkness and self-indulgence and clothe ourselves, instead, in the deeds of

Jesus Christ, and Matthew points out the need for alertness, attentiveness and a willingness to change our hearts.

God wants to make all of us His adopted sons and daughters, sharing everlasting happiness in heaven and He sent His Son on earth to bring us there. There is no discrimination, no restriction of gender, age, race or culture. All are invited. All are welcome.

During this season of Advent let us prepare for the coming of Christ by penance, prayer, and acts of mercy, greeting the Christ child on Christmas day with these as our gifts, for He is our Saviour, our loving brother, who has come to save us.

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

God of all Blessings, in gratitude for the abundant gifts you have so graciously given to St. Thomas More parish, help us to be faithful stewards that we might return to you the first fruits of these gifts, by generous acts of regular giving, service to our parish, and support of the Divine Mercy Project, Amen. Please consider increasing your regular sustainable donations.



Help build a legacy of Faith, Hope, and Discipleship.



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:

There will be a 'reverse collection' Food Drive next weekend on November 29/30. Baskets with slips of paper with the name of a suggested food donation will be passed around during Offertory. Please pick up one or more slips of paper and bring the grocery items to the church on the weekend of December 6/7 or at another time that is convenient for you. We would prefer that the food items be in smaller portions. If you would prefer to make a financial donation, cheques payable to "SSVP Divine Mercy Conference" can be placed in the St Vincent de Paul donation box at the back of the church or dropped off or mailed to the parish office. A donation receipt will be sent to you. Financial donations can also be made online at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/The-Society-of-Saint-Vincent-de-Paul-Divine-Mercy-Conference/>

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 Albert Chrumka, Baby Leo Baetson, Vern Maller, Lucy Longo, Darren Day, Marcella Cloran, Carl & Jackie Blansjaar, Orest Witiw, Julie Lee, Ashley West, Stelios Kiliaris, Alfred Morrill, Lillian Gartner, Bob Gerow, Mary Jane Olivier, Chloe Aranha, Leticia Bondoc, Connie Reed, Guenivere Swan, Jayantha Wickrama, Bishop Greg Bittman, Leticia Amador, Robert Gibeault, Beth Garcia, Micheline Yu, Sam Amelio, Rudy Pisesky, Mariam Azizi, Greg Wademan & Mary Kutty Matthew 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 Jan Gonciarz, Walter Kurth, John Lazaruk, Michael Cummings & William Petraschuk that He will raise them up to live forever.

Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception
of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
8 December

Special Mass Dec 8 at 7pm



O Mary,
conceived
without
sin, pray
for us who
have
recourse to thee.



CARMELITE SALE ON DEC 6 & 7: Come out and support our Carmelite sisters with a purchase of their handicrafts or a donation. Cash, cheques, credit and debit cards accepted with a tax receipt issued for donations over \$20. The Sale is in the Rosary room after 4:30pm Mass on Dec 6 & in the Hall after each Mass, Dec 7.



The **ADVENT GIVING TREE** is a St. Thomas More Advent tradition. The support of our parish is needed for the women and children of **Lurana Shelter**, a refuge for those fleeing from family violence. Take one of the stars and angels from the Giving Tree with a needed item or refer to the posted list of items beside the tree and on the parish website. All items must be new, not promoting violence, and unwrapped. Drop off your gifts by the Giving Tree located in the gathering space of the church during Advent (from Nov. 29 to Dec. 21). Giving gift cards is strongly encouraged (suggested maximum amount per card is \$50). The Catholic Women's League is coordinating this project once again and thanks all for their support.



CALLING ALL BAKERS!! The CWL is asking all parishioners to contribute Christmas baking for the Christmas Market fundraiser. The bake sale at our Christmas Market has been a wonderful success thanks to our talented bakers and the magnificent



Christmas treats they donate. There is no such thing as *too much* Christmas baking — we have sold out early every time! Thank you in advance to all the bakers for sharing your time and talent to make this part of our fundraiser a great success.

Note: Due to limited storage space, baking can only be accepted between 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 5 or between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 6.

'PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE HIS PATH STRAIGHT.'

The Knights of Columbus is happy to announce the Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) Program to help shift from a preoccupation with materialism to the light of Christ and the spirit of giving. All are invited to participate in the Keep Christ in Christmas Contest, to prepare the way for Jesus. This contest is for youth from grades 1 through 9 and may participate in either or both events.



Event 1: Make a Room in your inn - Nativity Scene Creation:

Participants may get together with their family or a group of friends to create a model of the nativity scene that demonstrates the Catholic understanding of Christmas. Any materials can be used for your entry. There are no size restrictions for the nativity scene model. Entries can be submitted by sending a picture(s) (JPEG) or a video to family@kofc7599.org or jason.kalapurakal@kofc7599.org by Dec 15.

Event 2: 'Keep Christ in Christmas' Poster Contest: Youth from grades 1 through 9 are invited to submit a poster, using a medium of their choice (i.e. paint, crayon, marker, etc.). The size requirements of the poster is 11"x17". The poster should depict your concept of 'Keeping Christ in Christmas'. The submissions can be made by emailing a scanned image or picture (JPEG) of your poster to family@kofc7599.org or jasonkalapurakal@kofc7599.org. The deadline for entries is December 15, 2025. **Please ensure your name, contact number and email address are included with your entry.** Please contact Family Programs Director Tony Joseph and (780)-977-4921 or Jason Kalapurakal at (587)-985-0450, or email family@kofc7599.org.

Advent Day of Confessions

December 6, 11am to 4pm



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

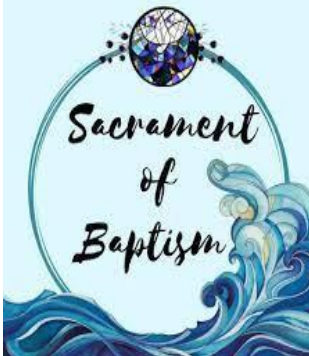
We are a faith community that supports families, and recognizes marriage and family are the core of God's plan.

Learn more at: CAedm.ca

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, this is 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: We are delighted to celebrate the Sacrament of Children's Baptism throughout the year, except during Advent and Lent. For infants and children under 7 years old, baptisms are typically held once or twice monthly. For older children, aged 7 to 15, we offer "Later Baptism" followed by other age-appropriate sacraments 2-3 times per school year. Please note that Feb. 7, 2026 is the only remaining Accommodated Baptism available for the older children during this school year. Parents and godparents are required to complete a Baptism Preparation program. We encourage you to review the [Baptism Requirements document](#) on our website [under the page of Sacraments & Baptism](#). This document provides details on registration (pages 1-2), preparation options (page 3), and available baptism schedule (pages 4-6). Please be aware that registration requirements must be completed 2 weeks prior to the baptism date, and bookings fill up quickly. We strongly encourage all parents, including expectant parents, to begin the registration process as early as possible. If you wish to register for the upcoming baptism celebrations on Jan 25, or the in-person preparation sessions on Dec. 13, please contact Tracy Lam at (780) 434-6313 ext. 233, or email Baptism.STM@caedm.ca for assistance.



SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST COMMUNION: 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 cycle 2 is now open!**



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: In the Archdiocese of Edmonton, most young people receive the sacrament when they are 11-12 years old. **Registration for Cycle 2 is now open!**



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. Later marriage preparation is available to you. We are happy to accommodate you.



RCIA: Adults (16+years old) seeking to become Catholic, please speak to Paul Givens. Inquirers 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 9pm.



PASTORAL/TEACHER REFERENCES Teacher references for registered parishioners, are completed twice a year, in the Fall and late Spring. Please complete your portion of the reference provided by your school district and send it via email to communications.stm@caedm.ca or drop off a copy at the office.

SICK AND SHUT-IN's: To request Holy Communion please call the parish office, (780) 434 6313. **Volunteers needed!!**