

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

210 Haddow Close, Edmonton, AB T6R 2P3
Office: 780 434 6313 Website: stm.caedm.ca

CHRISTMAS 2025

Pastor: Fr. Mark McGee

Seminary Intern: Noah Kungel

Supply Priest: Fr. Jozef Wroblewski

Permanent Deacons:

Randy Abele, Tom Sudsbear & Gordon Taylor

Christmas Mass Schedule

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Wed. Dec. 24: 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 10:30pm
and Midnight (incense at Midnight)

Thurs. Dec. 25: 9am & 11am (incense at 11am)

Feast of the Holy Family

Sat. Dec. 27: 4:30pm Vigil Mass

Sun. Dec. 28: 8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12:30pm

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Wed. Dec. 31: 5pm Vigil Mass

Thurs. Jan. 1: 9am & 11am

Regularly scheduled Confessions will resume
on Jan 2, 2026



In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then, an Angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the Angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

When the Angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Luke 2. 1-16

Message from your Pastor

Share the Good News! Share the Joy! Heartfelt Thanks!

- *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...” John 1:5*
- *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth...” John 1:14*
- *“When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.” (Luke 2: 17-18)*

My Dear Friends,

What an amazing gift we have been given in Jesus Christ! The gift we share is the good news of our salvation given to us because “God so loved the world...” (John 3: 16). Without Him, Jesus, we would perish, but now, instead, we can have eternal life.

These days of Christmas offer a time of promise and hope, and a period for devout and joyful expectation, a time of gratitude. We focus on the prophets and the promise of a Messiah. We reflect on the ways that God has been with us throughout the year. The fact of the incarnation invites us to anticipate God’s presence and action in actual and ongoing ways.

Gratitude can be our way of life. We recall all those who have been a special part of our lives. By each in his or her own way, we have encountered the incarnate love of God. The Risen Christ is, in part, present to us in the affirming, reassuring love and support, and the kind encouragement of our fellow human beings. As Mary bore Christ to the world, so we are called to do the same in the concrete circumstances of our lives. Mary helps us to accept each one as a brother or sister and see in them the living God who remains with us sacramentally, in community, in our commitments and loving action. We see Mary as one who accompanies us each step of our journey of faith and teaches us to put aside fear and to welcome life as a gift.

We are invited to follow shepherds and kings, saints and sinners, and that long line of witnesses of all generations as they seek the light in the darkness and share their message of good news with a world steeped in darkness. “Immanuel, God is with us!” The message is just as true all year, as it is Christmas morning. This Shaker traditional poem captures the enduring message of Christmas.



*When the song of the angels is still,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings are back home,
When the shepherds are once more with their flocks,
When Simeon and Anna have gone to their master in peace,*

*Then the work of Christmas begins;
To find the lost, to heal the broken,
To release the prisoners, to rebuild nations,
To bring peace to all people, to make music in the heart.*



May Jesus burst into your waiting hearts in a new way this Christmas, filling you with a light that sees visions, a hope that dreams dreams, and a desire to keep loving. May you be inspired to continue the “work of Christmas” throughout the year as you share your joy with others. May you and your loved ones have a wonderful Christmas!

Thank you for all you do for each other to help make this the kind, vibrant, generous and Spirit-filled community that it is. Here, Christ is welcomed and people are supported in their progress as together we make our way in our walk with the Lord. Thank you all so much! It is truly a joy and a privilege to serve with you here at St. Thomas More.

Merry Christmas! God Bless you! Good tidings to all!

Gratefully,

Fr. Mark



We invite you to sing along with the choir. Text is included in this booklet under ONE LICENSE #A-730378

Midnight Silence

Midnight silence, calm is the sky,
earth is still and winter is nigh.
Shining star will light the way
for our savior born this day.

For all ages God has come
shepherds greet the Holy One.
Lowly manger, cattle stall
bears the Savior of us all.

Tiny babe so full of grace,
we, your people seek your face.
Let our hearts keep warm in your light
as we kneel this holy night.

Angel choirs flood the earth,
sing the news of Jesus' birth.
Infant sleeping on the hay
brings the dawning of the day.

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Nativity Carol

Refrain:

For a child is born,
The world rejoices,
Shepherds and angels proclaim his birth
This is Jesus the Lord,
Our Saviour and brother.
Bearing God's peace to the earth

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Christmas Lullaby

Refrain:

Ave Maria, ave Maria
Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing
Ave Maria, ave Maria
Maiden and mother of Jesus our King

Text: © 1990, Hinshaw Music, Inc.

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Refrain:

Hail, thou ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Contributors: Edward Caswall, Melody by John Goss

The First Noel

The first Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!*

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
Three Wise men came from country far
To seek for a King was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went.

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

Text: Irregular with refrain; trad. English carol, 17th cent.; verse 6, alt. Music: Trad. English carol, 17th cent.

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes;
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Text: St. 1-2, anonymous, st. 3, John T. McFarland, 1851-1913.

The **WINDOW** is the weekly electronic bulletin of the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton. **WINDOW** is the single source of news from the Archdiocese – a 'window' into our Catholic community.



O Come all Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore Him, (3)

Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He comes forth from the Virgin's womb.
Our very God, begotten not created.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
"Glory to God, in the highest!"

At midnight Mass only:

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing.

Text: Irregular with refrain; John F. Wade, ca. 1711-1786;
English tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880 alt.

Lord Have Mercy

Lord have mercy (2)
Christ have mercy (2)
Lord have mercy (2)

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks, for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

All the Ends of the Earth

Refrain:

All the ends of the earth have seen the power of God. (2)

Text: Psalm 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; David Haas, Marty Haugen. Music: David Haas, Marty Haugen. © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.

Today is Born our Saviour

Refrain:

Today is born our Saviour, Jesus Christ the Lord. (2).

Text: Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13. Psalm refrain © 1969. All rights reserved.

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Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as one with us to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that we no more may die
Born to raise us from the earth
Born to give us second birth

Text: 77 77 D with refrain; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847; adapt. by William H. Cummings,
1831-1915.

Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Memorial Acclamation

We proclaim your death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Great Amen

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us. Have mercy on us. (2)
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.
Grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Silent Night

Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright;
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in Heavenly Peace,
Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from Heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at Thy Birth,
Jesus Lord at Thy Birth.

Text: Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht; Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849;
tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885.

What Child is This?

What Child is this who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

Text: 87 87 with refrain; Bramley and Stainer's Christmas Carols
New and Old, 1871; William C. Dix, 1837-1898. Music: Trad. English melody,
16th cent.; Bramley and Stainer's Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871.

O Holy Night

Solo:

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.
Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night, when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night divine!

All:

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy Name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim! (2)

Text John S. Dwight, 1813-1893. Tune: CANTIQUE DE NOEL, Irregular. Adolphe
Adam, 1803-1856.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Saviour reigns!
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.


Text: CM with repeats; based on Psalm 98:4-9; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Music: T. Hawkes' Collection of Tunes,
1833; George Frederic Handel, 1685-1759; adapt. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872, alt.



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.
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The Archdiocese of Edmonton
WINDOW

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CATHOLICS COME HOME: *Re-Membering The Church*

Welcome Home!

Have you ever wondered about the Catholic Faith? Were you baptized in the Church and then been away for a while? If so, we are so excited to have you here at St. Thomas More Catholic Parish!

Our goal is to provide you with the help you need to understand the Catholic Church and her teachings. We invite you to join us in worship, prayer, and fellowship as you discover/rediscovers our Catholic Faith!

How do I come home?

There are a number of ways to begin your journey:

1. Go to Mass. (Saturday 4:30pm; Sundays 8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12 noon). Do not worry if you do not remember what you are supposed to do at Mass. The important thing is that you are there. Showing up is the first step.
2. Ask a friend that practices their Catholic faith about their own experiences with the Catholic Church. That friend may prove quite helpful in accompanying you on your journey home.
3. Contact the parish office to set up an appointment (**780 434 6313**). This will allow you to spend some dedicated time discussing your specific situation, getting answers to your questions, and learning more about the Catholic Church.

*If you are already a baptized Catholic and have left the Church for a while, another great way to journey home is to once again experience the healing Sacrament of Confession. This will allow you to once again fully participate in the Mass, including receiving the Eucharist. Even if it has been a long time and you don't remember what to do, or you've explored other religions, there is nothing to fear. The priest will be glad to guide you through the sacrament of Reconciliation.

As a Catholic, how can I help a loved one return to the Catholic Church?

Whether you are reaching out to a lapsed Catholic or you're in contact with someone who has shown interest in becoming a Catholic, the first step is to pray for them. Ask for guidance as you discern having a conversation with them about the Catholic faith or if you are feeling called, invite them to Mass so they can experience the beauty of the sacraments for themselves. If you need help or are looking for guidance, please call the parish office (**780 434 6313**). We are here to help!

Homecoming Prayer

God of Mercy and Love, you have called us through our baptism to form a community that gathers to share the Word and Break the Bread of Life-- the Eucharist. We know that some of our brothers and sisters have suffered and no longer feel a part of our community; some have drifted away and are waiting for an invitation. We desire to reach out to all of them, as you have reached out to us. We pray for them and we pray for ourselves that we may truly be an accepting community, open and welcoming to all. We pray as Jesus prayed, "that they may be one." Jesus our Lord has shown us the depth of your love and mercy. In His holy name we pray, Amen.

Thinking of Becoming Catholic?

The RCIA journey of faith is for you

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process is the way adults enter into "Full Communion" with the Catholic Church (*i.e. those baptised in another Christian church*); or those not ever Baptised prepare for the Sacraments of full Initiation (*Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist*) at Easter. The Catholic community of St. Thomas More is happy and ready to support anyone wishing to embark on this journey of faith. If this is something you are considering, please call the parish office at **780 434 6313**.

RCIA is also an opportunity for personal renewal for Catholics who would like to learn or relearn their Catholic faith. Would you like to journey with those enrolled in our RCIA process by accompanying a new **Catholic Christian** as a sponsor? If you want to deepen your own faith and help guide others in their relationship with Jesus, this may be the ministry for you. If you are interested, please speak to Fr. Mark.

NICODEMUS NIGHT

"Nicodemus Night" is an information session regarding the process to become Catholic. It is named after Nicodemus, the Pharisee who met Jesus, discreetly and privately, at night (*see John 3:1-21*). This information session is meant for individuals wanting to understand the RCIA process either for themselves or on behalf of someone else. The meeting is scheduled for **Sunday September 20, 2026 at 2 pm**. "Nicodemus Night" is an open meeting. No registration or commitment is required, but we will collect names and contact numbers to follow up with interested individuals. Those interested are encouraged to attend Nicodemus Night so their questions can be discussed.

Come Home to the Catholic Church



Baptism

Baptism serves as the first sacrament received when entering the Catholic faith. Along with Eucharist and Confirmation, it is one of the three Sacraments of Initiation. Through Baptism, we receive an indelible spiritual mark, making us forever a part of the Body of Christ, the Church. The Catechism of the Catholic church teaches that through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God, we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church, and made sharers in her mission." (CCC 1213). The Church welcomed 158 children through Baptisms in 2025. For details on Infant & Young Children Baptism (under the age of 7) and Later Baptism (between the age of 7 – 15) through the Accommodated Program, please see the registration requirements (page 1-2), preparation options (page 3) and schedule (page 4-5) in this [Baptism Requirement document](#) which is also available on our website [Baptism - St. Thomas More Catholic Parish](#). Please be advised that this is the final registration period for the current intake of Cycle 3 - Later Baptism on February 7, 2026. The next registration opportunity will commence in September. All registration requirements are to be completed no later than 2 weeks prior to the Baptism date.

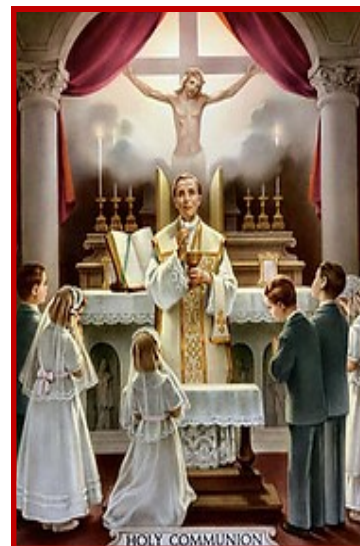
In addition, we continue to offer baptismal preparation both online and in-person throughout 2026. The next two in-person classes are scheduled on Monday, January 12, @7pm to 8:30pm & Saturday, January 17, @10am to 11:30am. Please email Baptism.STM@caedm.ca or call the office for all infant baptism registrations and enquiries.



First Reconciliation & First Eucharist

First Holy Communion is considered one of the holiest and most important occasions in a Roman Catholic person's life. It is the first time a person receives the Eucharist, which is the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ. Most Catholic children receive their First Holy Communion at the age of 7 or 8 years, which is considered the age of reason. Registration for First Reconciliation & First Eucharist is now open. Please go to our website to register.

1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist-Spring Cycle (3)	Date & Time	Time
Parent Orientation	Tuesday, Feb 10, 2026	6:15-7:15pm
Catechism Class	Tuesday, Feb 17, 2026	6:15-7:30pm
Catechism Class	Tuesday, Mar 3, 2026	6:15-7:30pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Saturday, Mar 7, 2026	11am to 1pm
Catechism Class	Tuesday, April 14, 2026	6:15-7:30pm
Catechism Class	Tuesday, April 21, 2026	6:15-7:30pm
Catechism Class	Tuesday, April 28, 2026	6:15-7:30pm
Sacrament of 1st Eucharist	Sunday, May 3, 2026	4:30pm Mass



Confirmation

Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace, making the recipient "more perfectly bound to the Church and enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit," completing what was begun with Baptism (CCC 1285). In the Archdiocese of Edmonton, most young people receive this sacrament when they are 11-12 years old or in Grades 6,7,8. Registration for Confirmation is now open.

To register your child please fill the [Online Registration Form](#) on our website:

Confirmation Spring 2026	Date & Time	Time
Parent Orientation	Wednesday, Jan 28, 2026	6:30 - 7:30pm
Catechism Class	Wednesday, Feb 4, 2026	6:30-8:pm
Catechism Class	Wednesday, Feb 11, 2026	6:30-8:pm
Catechism Class	Wednesday, Mar 11, 2026	6:30-8:pm
Catechism Class	Wednesday, Mar 18, 2026	6:30-8:pm
Catechism Class	Wednesday, Mar 25, 2026	6:30-8:pm
Catechism Class	Wednesday, April 15, 2026	6:30-8:pm
Catechism Class	Wednesday, April 22, 2026	6:30-8:pm
Catechism Class	Wednesday, April 29, 2026	6:30-8:pm
Retreat & Confessions	Saturday May 9, 2026	10 am to 2:30m
Confirmation Mass	Sunday, May 24, 2026	3pm

Adult Confirmation for baptized, catechized Catholics: Preparation May 5, May 19 & May 23.

Confirmation Mass on Pentecost, May 24, 2026 .



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that "those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God's mercy for the offense committed against Him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins." (CCC 1422).

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is known as one of the two Sacraments of Healing (along with the Anointing of the Sick).

Contact the parish office for confession times. Please keep in mind that regular confession times will sometimes be disrupted by school Masses or Octaves (Christmas and Easter).



The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is "given to those who are seriously ill by anointing them on the forehead and hands with duly blessed oil - pressed from olives or from other plants - saying, only once: 'Through this holy anointing may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up'" (CCC 1513).

To receive this sacrament of healing:

- The Anointing of the Sick is a repeatable sacrament not intended only for those who are at the point of death. It is not necessary to delay this sacrament.
- Contact St. Thomas More parish office for more information on receiving the Anointing of the Sick or to make a referral for a loved one.
- Individuals who are hospitalized should reach out to their designated care department or nursing station to call for the on-call priest.



The Sacrament of Matrimony

The sacrament of Matrimony or Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman by which they "establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life," and the purpose of marriage is "the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring" (CCC1601).

Newly Engaged

1. Step one is to meet with the pastor
2. Contact the office to schedule an appointment at 780 434 6313
3. Give the church a minimum of 6 months notice

Married civilly or Common law or previously married?

Complete the sacrament of marriage through Convalidation (completing what is already begun). **Later Marriage Preparation** is available to help you. For more information please contact the parish office and ask to speak with Fr. Mark McGee.

The next Marriage Preparation program at St. Thomas More will take place on March 20 to 22, 2026. For information and to register, go to bit.ly/MarriagePrep2026 and complete the form. The registration deadline is on February 20, 2026.



REPORT ON SACRAMENTS—2025 / 2026

Through Sacramental Preparation, the work of Jesus Christ is being accomplished here at St. Thomas More Parish! Fulfilling the desire of parents to have their children receive the sacraments is a joy to behold. The Church welcomed 158 children from 137 families through BAPTISMS in 2025. We also offered 23 in-person baptismal preparation classes for 330 parents and godparents in 2025.

BAPTISM: We look forward to serving you with ongoing Baptismal Preparation classes in 2026 both In Person and Online. Please check out our [Baptism Requirement document](#) which is also available on our website [Baptism - St. Thomas More Catholic Parish](#) for baptism requirements, preparations and celebrations' schedule. We celebrate Baptisms for Infant & Young children under the age of 7, year-round except in the seasons of Advent and Lent. We also celebrate Later Baptisms 2-3 cycles per school year for children between the age of 7-15 who undergo the Accommodated Program, which requires these older children to also register, commit and receive other age appropriate sacraments and their preparation classes in the 1st Reconciliation/Eucharist and Confirmation. Please plan ahead, email Baptism.STM@caedm.ca well in advance to make a tentative booking for Baptism or call the parish office at (780) 434-6313 for further assistance. Anyone 16 years of age or older seeking Baptism would normally participate in RCIA (Adult classes).



Baptism is truly the greatest gift you can give your child; and what follows is a journey that takes the child through the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. It all begins in Baptism! **Congratulations to all our families who have undertaken this great adventure of faith with their children!**



FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST COMMUNION: At St. Thomas More, there are many cycles of 1st Reconciliation & 1st Eucharist preparation through the year and even so we still miss many Catholic children. The **1st cycle OF 1st RECONCILIATION** classes had 90 students who made their 1st Confessions on October 4th. **1st EUCHARIST for the 1st cycle** was celebrated on November 2nd.

The **2nd cycle OF RECONCILIATION** classes had 47 students who made their 1st Confessions on December 6th. **1st EUCHARIST FOR THE 2ND cycle** will be celebrated in the new year, on January 18th. **Congratulations to all the young people who have achieved this important milestone in their journey of faith. The parish shares in your joy!**

The 3rd cycle of 1st Reconciliation/ 1st Eucharist for 2026 begins with the Parent Information and Orientation Meeting on February 10, 2026, from 6:15-7:15 pm. Register online and register early to guarantee a space for your child. All classes are mandatory, so be sure you can attend all of them. Proof of Baptism is required.

CONFIRMATION: In 2025 at St. Thomas More, there were 3 cycles of Confirmation preparation. 32 students & 24 adults were confirmed in the 1st cycle on November 23. The Parent & Candidate Orientation Meeting for the 2nd cycle is on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, from 6:30-7:30 pm. The Parent & Candidate Orientation Meeting for the 3rd cycle, Summer Intensive is on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 6:30pm. Register on line and register early to guarantee a space for your child. All classes are mandatory so be sure you can attend all of them. The child's Proof of Baptism is required. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics and require proof of their own Confirmation. At least one parent must attend with their

child for cycle 2. Candidates for Confirmation must be in Grade 6 or older and be mature enough to participate fully in this process. Confirmation involves an extended review of the Catholic faith, **attending Mass** and completing **SERVICE PROJECTS**, so there's lots to learn about! The Baptised person is sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ. It marks the shift from the formation of the young to them taking ownership of their own faith. It is a sacrament of maturity and readiness to be a confident and competent witness. The parents in attendance often report enjoying the many topics discussed just as much as the youth and are learning right along with them!



St. Thomas More Youth & Young Families Ministries

For more information please contact shavi.perera@caedm.ca

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the youth and family ministries at St. Thomas More. There is so much to celebrate this year. All our ministries are growing and serving more people, but more importantly we are seeing more and more fruit from these ministries. Youth are coming to know God. Parents are returning to the church and families are being better equipped to handle everyday life. We want you to join one of our amazing youth & family ministries, please take a look at what interests you and give it a shot.



I hope this Christmas season is a time for you to slow down, quiet down and listen to the cries of Jesus in the manger. You are always welcome to join our ministries, and we hope you do so that you can unite your unique gifts and talents to the life giving capability of God's church.

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY PROGRAMS 2025/2026

SOMETHING FOR EVERY AGE!

LITTLE KIDS

MOM & TOTS PLAYGROUP

Drop-in playgroup for moms and kids. Fellowship for the moms and playtime for our kids. Wednesday mornings, twice a month.

GAME ZONE | GR. 2-6

Drop-in, drop-off fun time for kids to play sports, games & crafts (includes free snacks). Bring your lunch! Almost every Thursday during school year

PRIMARY SCHOOL

JUNIOR HIGH

DUC IN ALTUM | GR. 7-9

High-energy youth night for kids to play games, grow in their faith, and meet new friends. Saturday evenings, twice a month.

VERSO L'ALTO | GR. 10-12

High School Youth Group for teens to hang out with other Catholic teens and deepen their faith. Saturday evenings, twice a month.

HIGH SCHOOL

YOUNG ADULTS

FRIENDS OF FRASSATI | POST-SECONDARY+

Spiritual and social events for young adults to grow in their faith while building community. Friday nights, twice a month.

YOUNGER FAMILY BRUNCH | ANY FAMILY

Sunday gatherings once a month for families to grow together through honest conversation, talks and a light potluck style brunch.

YOUNGER FAMILIES

HEY FAMILIES! JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!



Youth & Family Ministry Events

Jan 08 - Game Zone

Jan 22 - Game Zone

Jan 09 - Friends of
Frassati

Jan 23 - Friends of
Frassati Social

Jan 10 - Duc In Altum
& Verso L'Alto Social

Jan 28 - Moms & Tots

Jan 14 - Moms & Tots

Jan 29 - Game Zone

Jan 15 - Game Zone

Jan 24 - Duc In Altum &
Verso L'Alto

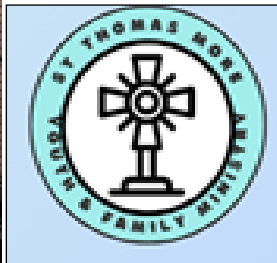
Scan for more information or email shavi.perera@caedm.ca



YOUTH MINISTRY 2025!



Fr. Mark with our youth on a canoe trip, Aug 2025



**COME
JOIN US!**

Group picture of the retreatants from our Summit Retreat for our Verso L'Alto High School Ministry.



Fr. Avinash celebrating Mass with our youth atop Mt. Solomon on Sept 27, 2025



St. Carlo Acutis

The Eucharistic Miracles
OF THE WORLD

St. Thomas More Parish is hosting the International Exhibition of The Eucharistic Miracles of the World, created by St. Carlo Acutis, from Friday December 12th until Friday January 8th.

This exhibit, printed and assembled by St. John Bosco Parish, has been travelling around the Archdiocese of Edmonton. Come check it out to learn more about these miracles. Consider stopping by the church outside of Mass times to be able to fully take in all 166 detailed panels.





Kids making pearly beads in the craft room at



Game Zone craft room - book mark making - Nov 2025



Friends of Frassati - bouldering outing - Nov 2025



Opening game - tic tac toe relay at Verso L'Alto - Nov



Halloween carving - Duc In Altum - Oct 2025



VBS - outdoor catechetical session



Halloween catechetical session Oct 2025



VBS volunteer appreciation



Catechesis session on the sin of Acedia - Verso L'Alto



mid hike up mt. Solomon - Summit retreat

Baptism



First Eucharist



Confirmation



"Sacraments R US"





Christmas Message from the Divine Mercy Project Steering Committee



Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, we extend our warmest Christmas blessings to you and your families. This year, your generosity and faith have moved the Divine Mercy Project forward in remarkable ways. Thank you for your commitment to building the future of our parish community.

Our growing Catholic population reminds us of the urgent need for a new spiritual home. Divine Mercy Parish will be a place of worship, formation, and outreach for generations to come. Because this project is being built by the people of St. Thomas More, **every gift you offer here—your Sunday giving and monthly support—directly advances the mission of Divine Mercy. Giving to St. Thomas More is giving to Divine Mercy.**

As we enter the next phase of planning, we encourage all parish families to continue, and when possible to increase, their regular intentional giving. Your steady support strengthens our current ministries and helps us build confidently for the future.

May the peace and joy of Christ fill your homes this Christmas, and may God bless our parish as we work together to build something beautiful for Him.

Merry Christmas!

DONATE

HERE



DIVINE MERCY PROJECT
HELPING BUILD GOD'S HOUSE



Reflection by Deacon Tom

The Light and the Life of the World (John 1:1-18)



The birth of Jesus has different meanings for different people. For Mary and Joseph and the shepherds, who came to adore him, it was an occasion of love. With the multitudes of angels singing above them, their hearts were filled with joy and love.

For those like King Herod, whose hearts were filled with darkness and hate, they saw in the birth of the infant Savior a rival for their earthly power and wanted to deny the Christ Child and all He stands for.

We will all find what we are looking for in the stable. If our hearts are filled with earthly concerns and material goods, our attention may be on the barren stable and its poverty.

If our hearts are open and receptive to love, then the greatest love story of all time will warm our hearts, prompting us to love the Infant Savior who came into this world for love of us and inspiring us to show love to our fellow man.

The Child who comes today will bring us peace, but we must first prepare our hearts to receive Him. We must empty our hearts of hatred and greed, allowing the Christ Child to fill them to overflowing with love, as the light of the world radiates from His manger filling us and all the world.

Let us allow the light of Christ to shine so brightly through us that it will dispel any darkness from the lives of our family, friends, and everyone we meet.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PAY LESS TAXES...AND SUPPORT YOUR PARISH?

As you consider making year-end and Christmas donations, we hope that you will also consider making a gift to your parish – **St. Thomas More**. In order for your donations to be credited towards your 2025 tax receipt, they need to **be received in 2025**.

Donations made at the Masses on December 31 will be considered 2025 donations; however, any cheques & envelopes dated 2026 or actually received in 2026 will be recorded in 2026.

Donations made at the New Year's day Masses on January 1 will be considered 2026 donations. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT YOUR YEAR END DONATION IN THE COLLECTION ON JANUARY 1 AND ASK THAT IT BE CONSIDERED FOR 2025** because this is not permitted by Canadian tax law. Donations may be mailed but **MUST** be postmarked December 31 or earlier to be considered as 2025 donations.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Online via STM website – open 24 hours a day! Go to stm.caedm.ca, follow the **Donate Now** link and make your donation prior to **midnight on December 31**. The funds will come to the parish and you will receive your tax receipt instantly from CanadaHelps.

E-transfers – open 24 hours a day 7 days a week! Make your donation prior to midnight on December 31 using the following email address: STM.etransfer@caedm.ca

- Please update our office if you have changed your address so that you can receive your tax receipt in the mail.
- Don't forget to pick up your donation envelopes!

End of the Year Giving Considerations

May God bless our work together- Maximize your impact before December 31st!

The end of the year will soon be upon us and we are grateful for your commitment to our parish. Just a friendly reminder how you can claim your charitable tax credit for this tax year. The tax breakdowns are below:

Total Contribution	Income Tax Credit	Actual Cost to You
\$1040 - \$20/week	\$470	\$570 -\$11/week
\$ 2080- \$40/week	\$990	\$1090 -\$21/week
\$ 5200 - \$100/week	\$2550	\$2650 -\$51/week
\$10,400- \$200/week	\$ 5150	\$ 5250 -\$101/week

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the financial needs of our parish with **Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)** or by bringing your **Sunday Giving Envelopes** to the church. St. Thomas More is also set up to accept donations via **INTERAC E-Transfer** at STM.etransfer@caedm.ca

Approximately **50% of the financial support** for our parish comes from PAD and other electronic giving! Consider **switching** to PAD to contribute from your treasure to support St. Thomas More Parish.



*Merry Christmas!!
from all of us at the Parish Office*



Merry Christmas from all of us on your St. Thomas More pastoral team! It is a privilege to serve here! We work hard to support the life of our parish and all of you who work, contribute, share your talents, time and finances to help in the happy success of our parish community. The presence of Christ is realized throughout the year and in every season, but Christmas is that special time to fully celebrate the beautiful faith we enjoy and the many ways Christ is remembered and known in our community, our families, our commitments and all our relations. Knowing Jesus is only fully possible in community. We are so grateful for our shared worship, catechesis, ministries, groups, witness, pastoral care and collaborations. To all those who, by your dedication, help St. Thomas More achieve what a Catholic parish exists to accomplish at the service of Christ and his Church, we say a resounding thank you! God bless you! Building on the kindness and hospitality of this community we also love welcoming those returning to the practice of their faith and those coming into the Catholic church. This dedicated team of staff and volunteers does a lot, but without you we could do nothing! "Immanuel, God is with us!" The message is just as true all year, as it is Christmas morning. Merry Christmas, we appreciate you all. May the blessing of these sacred days remain with you throughout the year!

God Bless you!

FR. Mark

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful." -Norman Vincent Peale