



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

December 7, 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent



WEEKDAY LITURGIES (DEC 9 – DEC 12)

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

Wed: Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am

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

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

SUNDAY MASS TIMES (DEC 13 & 14)

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.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

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

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

Tue, Dec 9: Confession/Mass: 4:15/5pm
Lector workshop at 6pm
Knights of Columbus meeting at 7pm

Wed, Dec 10: Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am

Thurs, Dec 11: Game Zone, 12:30 to 3:30pm
Confession/Mass: 4:15/5pm
Children's choir at 6:15pm
Adult choir at 7pm

Fri, Dec 12: Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am
Advent Waiting Holy Hour, 7 to 8:15pm

Sat, Dec 13: Baptism Prep, 10 to 11:30am
Confession/Mass: 3-4pm/4:30pm

Sun, Dec 14: Mass at 8am, 9:30am, 11am & 12:30pm
Younger families ministry after 9:30am Mass

ADVENT WAITING HOLY HOUR

Fridays: Dec 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.



Special Mass Dec 8 at 7pm

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 8th



Sunday Gospel Reflection

By Deacon Tom



Are We Wheat or are We Chaff? (Matthew 3:1-12)

As we prepare to welcome Christ at Christmas, John the Baptist has words of advice and warnings for each one of us. We are to "prepare the way of the Lord," by true repentance of our sins and with firm determination of faith, straighten "the ways of the Lord," that is, to take note of his message in our own lives and do what we can to instill it in the lives of those with whom we live and work and for whom we may be responsible.

The pride and self righteousness of the Pharisees and the worldliness of the Sadducees ruined their otherwise good lives. Today, we are tempted to compromise our principles in favour of enhancing our status and encouraged to disregard the needs of others and take care of "number one".

Though John the Baptist lived a life of utter self-denial, he did not require this

of those who came to hear his message. He preached repentance and a change of heart; a return to righteousness, to lives of integrity and to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. Though we may not be called as John was to proclaim this message, we need to take his message seriously on our personal journey of faith.

John is telling us that each one of us holds an important decision in our hands. We can, by true repentance, change ourselves from chaff into wheat, but once we draw our last breath, not even our infinitely merciful God can 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.

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, Marion Coderre & 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, Joan Silberio, Michael Cummings & William Petraschuk that He will raise them up to live forever.

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

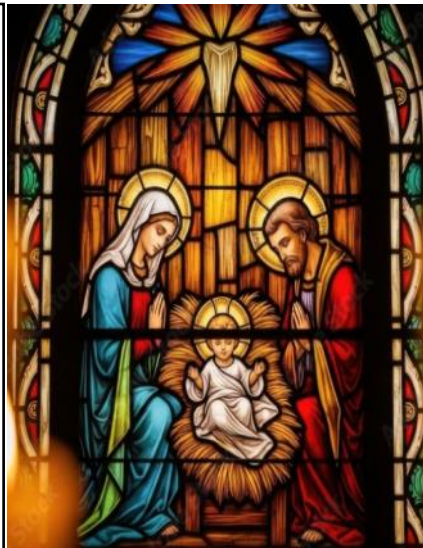
The Knights of Columbus is happy to announce the Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) Program to help shift from a preoccupation with materialism to the light of Christ and the spirit of giving. All are invited to participate in the Keep Christ in Christmas Contest, to prepare the way for Jesus. This contest 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. Please contact Family Programs Director Tony Joseph and (780)-977-4921 or Jason Kalapurakal at (587)-985-0450, or email.

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.



Christmas Mass Times

Wednesday, Dec 24

3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm,
10:30pm & 12 midnight (with incense)

Thursday, Dec 25

9am & 11am (with incense)



Marriage Preparation

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.

MASS SCHEDULE

MON. DEC. 8 - **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** - 7 PM MASS

MON. DEC. 22 - NO MASS

TUES. DEC. 23 - NO MASS

FRI. DEC. 26 - NO MASS

SAT. DEC. 27 - 4:30 PM VIGIL MASS ONLY

SUN. DEC. 28 HOLY FAMILY

8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11 AM, 12:30 PM

MON. DEC. 29 - NO MASS

TUES. DEC. 30 - 9 AM MASS

WED. DEC. 31 - 5 PM VIGIL MASS ONLY

THURS. JAN. 1 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

(NEW YEAR'S DAY) 9 AM AND 11 AM (WITH INCENSE)

FRI. JAN. 2 - 9 AM MASS FOR 1ST FRIDAY WITH

ADORATION TO FOLLOW. BENEDICTION AT 11 AM

SAT. JAN. 3 - 9 AM MASS FOR 1ST SATURDAY,

FOLLOWED BY ROSARY TALK

REGULAR WEEKEND SCHEDULE RESUMES JAN. 3/4

The office will be closed Dec. 23 at noon until Jan. 2 at 9 am.
No regularly scheduled confessions between Dec. 21 and Jan. 1.
Regularly scheduled confession times resume on Jan. 2.



2025 donations can be made
at the office until Dec. 23 at
noon, and up to Dec. 31
online or by electronic money
transfer to:
stm.etransfer@caedm.ca

Christmas Blessings

My dear friends,

May the Spirit of this Advent bring us the peace and joy that come from giving, loving, and caring for one another.

May the celebration of Jesus' birth be a treasured gift for ourselves and for all — a gift of truth, faithfulness, and openness to the Spirit. May Jesus' love continue to guide us as we grow in faith and discipleship.

May the Blessings of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and your families this Christmas season and throughout 2026.

My heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to the beauty and prayerfulness of our worship in this holy season.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Mark McGee, Pastor

780-434-6313 + 210 Haddow Close + Edmonton AB + stm.caedm.ca

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

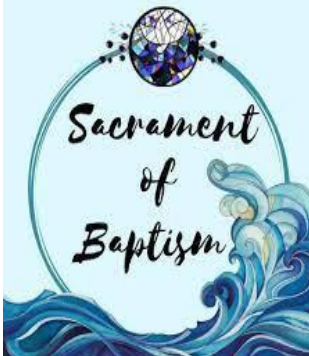
We are a faith community that supports families, and recognizes marriage and family are the core of God's plan.

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!!**