

St. Thomas More Catholic Church

Feast of the Holy Family of

Jesus Mary and Joseph



Pastor: [Fr. Mark McGee](#)

Seminary Intern: [Noah Kungel](#) Supply Priest: Fr. Jozef Wroblewski

Permanent Deacons: [Randy Abele](#), [Tom Sudsbear](#) & [Gordon Taylor](#)

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

[Wed. Dec. 31](#): 5 pm

[Thurs. Jan. 1](#): 9 am & 11 am (with incense)

Epiphany of the Lord

This holiday is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. It is a reminder of the role she played in the salvation of humankind.



The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 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. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told to them. After eight days had passed, it was time circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the Angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Luke 2:16-21

Reflection by Deacon Tom: The Holy Family (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23)

The Holy family is the model for all our families to follow. As Joseph and Mary were obedient to the commands of God, they show us that whenever God speaks to us and we obey His will, we can expect to face opposition. The life of Jesus as a human being was not protected from danger and from His birth, He was exposed to death because of evil people. Mary's husband, Joseph, was a righteous man who feared God, yet his obedience to God forced him to flee for his life to a foreign country. Joseph's hardship came, not because of his sin, but because of his obedience.

Jesus, as a child, gave us a model to follow in obedience. He obeyed Mary and Joseph while living as a member of the Holy Family in Nazareth and He obeyed the will of His Father in heaven while leading His public life.

As the Holy Family embarked on their journey to and from Egypt, may we parents continue to share responsibility and mutual respect in caring for our children. God's will for us may involve hardship, as it did for His Son, but he loves us and will not allow us to face more than we are able to handle.

Like Joseph and Mary, may we always be obedient to God, trusting him, as we make our decisions and remembering that God is our loving father, protecting, guiding and blessing us every day and in all circumstances of our family lives.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon, Dec 29: Church & Office closed

Tue, Dec 30: Church & Office closed

Wed, Dec 31: **Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Vigil Mass at 5 pm**

Thurs, Jan 01: **Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Mass at 9 am and 11 am (with incense)**

1st Fri, Jan 02: Confession/Mass: 8:15/9am
First Friday
1st Friday Adoration & Benediction, 9:30 to **11am**
Church & Office closed at 12 noon

Sat, Jan 03: Rosary at 8:30am

FIRST SATURDAY: Mass at 9am followed by Rosary talk
Confession/Mass: 3-4 pm/4:30 pm

Sun, Jan 04: Mass at 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am & 12:30 pm

Tue, Jan 06: Confession/Mass: 4:15/5 pm
1st Eucharist Cycle #2, class 1, 6:15 to 7:30pm
Liturgy Committee meeting, 7 pm

Wed, Jan 07: Confession/Mass: 8:15/9 am

Thurs, Jan 08: No Game Zone, restarts on Jan 15
Confession/Mass: 4:15/5 pm
1st Eucharist Cycle #2, class 2, 6:15 to 7:30pm
Knights of Columbus meeting at 7pm

Fri, Jan 09: Confession/Mass: 8:15/9 am

Sat, Jan 10: Confession/Mass: 3-4 pm/4:30 pm
RCIA Rite of Acceptance at 4:30pm Mass

Sun, Jan 11: Mass at 8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am & 12:30 pm
New Parishioner Welcome at 2pm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mon, Jan 12: In-person Baptism prep, 7 to 8:30pm

Tue Jan 13: 1st Recon. Cycle #2, Class 3, 6:15 to 7:30pm

Sat, Jan 17: Divine Mercy Parish Steering Committee 9 am
“Before I Do and After” Relationship Workshop for singles and married couples, 12:30pm to 4pm

Sun, Jan 18: 1st Eucharist Mass at 4:30pm

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, 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, Guenivere Swan, Bishop Greg Bittman, Rudy Pisesky, Anna Rayar, Marion Coderre, Ron McCarthy & 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 Wilfred Borle, Michael Viola, Nenita Gatdula, Georges Chartouney, Amal Daher, Umberto Daher, Isabelle Daher, Jan Gonciarz, Walter Kurth, John Lazaruk, Joan Silberio, Michael Cummings & William Petraschuk that He will raise them up to live forever.

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!

The Divine Mercy Project Steering Committee

DONATE

HERE



DIVINE MERCY PROJECT HELPING BUILD GOD'S HOUSE





Pastoral Priorities of the Archdiocese

worship

We are a faith community that understands and joyfully celebrates the Eucharist.

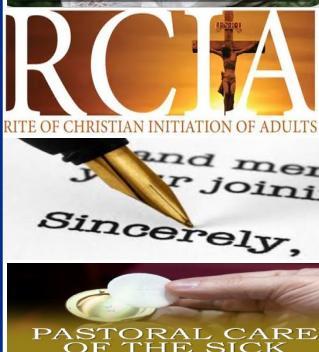
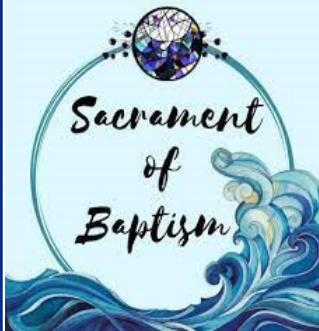
witness

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



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.

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!!**