



Welcome to HOLY FAMILY PARISH

DECEMBER 5, 2021 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Email: contact@holyfamilymh.ca ~ Website: www.holyfamilymh.ca ~ Facebook: Medicine Hat Holy Family Parish

Reconciliation: By Appointment Only 403-527-6933 ext. 101

Office Hrs. Monday to Friday - 8:30am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm to 4:30pm - Closed on Holidays.

CLERGY AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Fr. Iqbal Khurshid & Fr Rodel Abanto
& Deacon Robert Risling

Reconciliation...

Friday 9:30am–10:30am. & Saturday 3:30–4:45pm.
Or by Appointment

MASS TIMES... MONDAY to FRIDAY at 9:00AM

FIRST SATURDAY OF MONTH at 8:30AM, SATURDAY at 5:00PM

SUNDAY at 8:30AM, 10:30AM & 6:00PM

THE CHAPEL IS OPEN

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:30am - 4:00pm

ADORATION FRIDAY 9:30 – 10:30am



Catholic Women's League

Marjorie Bowlby marjoriembowlby@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus

Kirby Peterson ktlpete@shaw.ca



Parish Pastoral Council – Chair

Gary Heinbecker, heinbecker@telus.net

Parish Finance Committee – Chair

Cheryl Pocsik, gpocsik@shaw.ca

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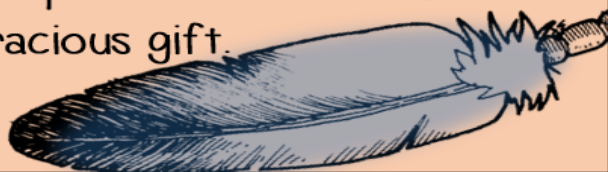
IMPORTANT: Do not sign up as an individual. Our parish access code provides more content than an individual subscription and it costs you nothing!

Sunday 10:30am Mass
Medicine Hat Holy Family Church
Live Stream

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG6zK-XzuXdDHj79rV6ut_Q



We acknowledge that Treaty 7 territory, on which we stand, is the ancestral land of the Indigenous peoples and is common home to everyone in virtue of God our Creator's gracious gift.



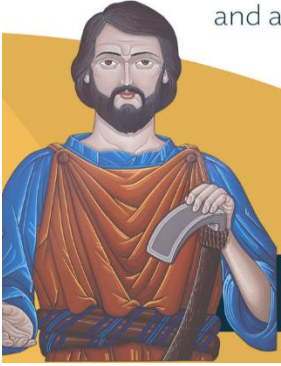
Listen to Mass on your phone...
Download the "Audio Fetch" app.
Our Network is: HFP_LIVE
The Password is: Liv3HFP*



E-Transfer Donations accounting@holyfamilymh.ca



1.4 MILLION of the Diocesan goal will financially support the approved diocesan ministries, partner organizations, and agencies. See list at catholicyc.ca/tia



2021
THE YEAR *of*
ST. JOSEPH

CATHOLICYYC.CA/TIA

” Then the people rejoiced because these had given willingly, for with single mind they had offered freely to the Lord

1 CHRONICLES 29:9

OUR PARISH GOAL

\$ 49,657

Everything raised **OVER**
our parish goal will go to support*:

Mustard Seed
Medicine Hat Food Bank
& Society of St. Vincent de Paul

TO DATE \$ 38,046 = 77%

↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑

THE END OF THE YEAR IS NEAR

OPERATING FINANCES

November 1-30, 2021

Operating Budget 2021	\$ 55,019
General Envelope Collection	\$ 49,735
Loose Collections	\$ 792
Future Development	\$ 4,893
Sale of Church Supplies & Other	\$ 9,291
Other Ministries	\$ 490

Budget Vs Actual	\$ 10,182
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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Together in Action (TIA)	\$ 5,220
Clergy Retirement	\$ 25
St Vincent de Paul	\$ 4,400
Seminarian Fund	\$ 70
Mission Mexico	\$ 100
CARO	\$ 40
Needs of the Cdn. Church	\$ 225
World Missions	\$ 42
Catholic Education	\$ 1,232
Mustard Seed	\$ 85
Gift Sharing Sunday	\$ 2,975
Food Bank	\$40

Thank You for your Generous Contributions

† Masses Intentions †

December 4 - 10, 2021

Saturday, December 4

8:30 am – Jacob Bischoff †

5:00pm – Jean Wingenbach

Sunday, December 5

8:30 am – Holy Family Parish

10:30am – Pat & Denise Ries

6:00pm – The Sehn Kids

Monday, December 6

9:00am – Molly Roy †

Tuesday, December 7

9:00am – Patrick Volk †

Wednesday, December 8

9:00am – Joseph Kuriyedon †

Thursday, December 9

9:00am – Katie Schafer †

Friday, December 10

9:00am – Joe & Marie Cruz

deceased family members †

2nd Sunday of Advent - Sunday, December 5, 2021

1st Reading: Baruch 5.1-9

God will show you splendour.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 126. 1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5, 6 (*R. 3*)

R. The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with joy.

2nd Reading: Philippians 1.3-6, 8-11

In the day of Christ, may you be pure and blameless.

Gospel: Luke 3. 1-6

PREPARING THE WAY

In announcing the first coming of the Messiah, John the Baptist urges all people to be right with one another and the world. In awaiting the coming, prophet Baruch tells us how to dress for that day – clad in justice and peace and mercy. In praying for us, as we await the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, Saint Paul confidently urges us to do good work, to love more and more, and to be filled with what is right.

- † In these troubled times, how can I make things right with _____?
- † What good work of justice and peace can I do this week?
- † What mercy work is Jesus urging me to do?



December 4, 2021

8:30 – 9:30 am

St. Patrick's Parish Hall

Theme

On Earth As it Is In Heaven

Presenter

Dr. Lenny Delorenzo



Advent Penitential Services

Holy Family Parish
Tuesday, December 7
7:00pm

St. Patrick's Parish
Wednesday
December 8

Sacramental Preparation



Sessions for both children and parents, Children in Hall & Parents in the Church...

1st Reconciliation
next class...

Thursday December 2, 2021
– 6:30-7:30pm

Confirmation next
class...

Wednesday, January 5, 2022
– 6:30-7:50pm



BEWARE... EMAIL SCAMMERS ARE AT IT AGAIN!!!

NOBODY is going to ask you for gift cards from the church! NOBODY!!!

All our email addresses end in @holymfamilymh.ca

We DO NOT have any GMAIL Accounts

Photo Directories Available for \$20.00 at the office

**HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
MEMBERS AND PERSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS.**



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME
or CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA**



Our dues for 2022 are \$30.00. They can be paid by using the CWL marked envelope in your church envelopes or use any envelope but mark it well with "CWL and your name". Then they can be dropped in the collection basket at mass or at the church office or mailed to 1451 Strachan Rd SE, T1A 4V3.

Thank you to all our faithful members and we welcome any new members.

Any questions please call **Lynn O'Byrne at 403-878-0881**

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

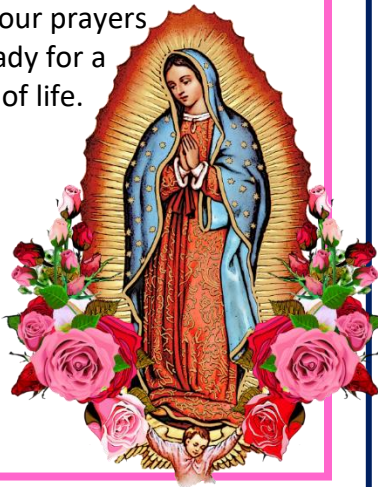
The 2022 envelopes are ready to be picked up; however, many of you will have a different envelope number since we used the lowest numbers possible!

Please write your name and address as you begin to use your new envelopes!!!

**Novena for Life to
Our Lady of Guadalupe**

As part of the Knights of Columbus Faith in Action,
Holy Family Parish will have a Novena for Life to Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Novena will begin **Sunday, December 5**, being said **one half hour before weekend and weekday Masses**, concluding at a Mass on **Monday, December 13 at 6:30pm on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe.**

Parishioners are encouraged to join us in our prayers to Our Lady for a culture of life.



*Prayers in Honor
of the Immaculate
Conception*

Feast Day: Dec.8

CHRISTelle27

**Hour of Grace December 8th from noon to 1 pm
at St. Patrick's Parish**

The Legion of Mary invites you to join them for one hour on December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, for prayer and silent meditation. Starting at noon until 1 pm, prayers will include praying Psalm 51 three times with outstretched arms, the Angelus, the Rosary, the Litany of The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Our Blessed Mother appeared in Italy in 1947 and said "It is my wish that every year, on 8th December, at noon, the Hour of Grace for the World be celebrated. Many divine and bodily graces will be received through this devotion...."

Due to pandemic restrictions, the Legion of Mary will not be able to hold their Annual General Reunion on December 8th, but encourage all members to join in the Hour of Grace at St. Patrick's or at home, totally concentrating on your union with God during this special Hour of Grace.





Thank You to all the parishioners and thank you for the Grade 5 & 6 students that walked over Fr Ecole St. John Paul II School to help pack up all the food and toys to the Trucks for the Santa Claus Fund and the Food Bank.

The Santa Claus Fund collection brought in 133 toys with an approximate value of \$3000.00. We are so very grateful for the support.



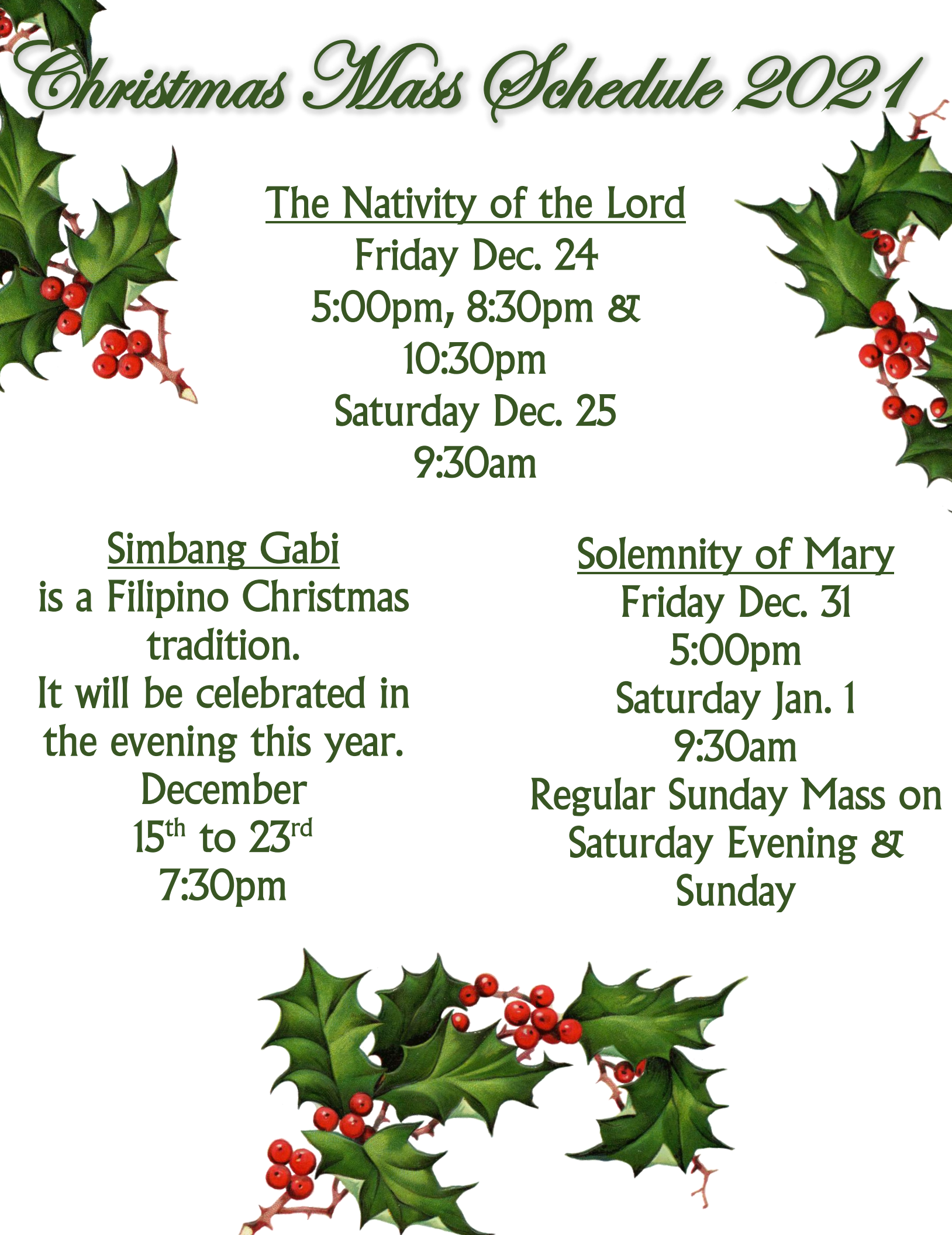
Gift Sharing Total to date: \$2875.
Mustard Seed: \$420.
Food Bank: \$645.

The Food Bank Collection (now known as The Root Cellar, Food and Wellness Hub) brought in 548 pounds of food valued at \$274.00.



Thank you to the CWL Ladies for providing and serving Hot Chocolate and Snacks for these young volunteers.





Christmas Mass Schedule 2021

The Nativity of the Lord

Friday Dec. 24

5:00pm, 8:30pm &

10:30pm

Saturday Dec. 25

9:30am

Simbang Gabi

is a Filipino Christmas tradition.

It will be celebrated in the evening this year.

December

15th to 23rd

7:30pm

Solemnity of Mary

Friday Dec. 31

5:00pm

Saturday Jan. 1

9:30am

Regular Sunday Mass on
Saturday Evening &
Sunday



2nd Sunday of Advent – Year C

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Follow the path to Conversion

Christianity is supremely a religion of conversion. Everything we say and everything we believe is built upon one fundamental and revolutionary premise: We don't have to stay the way we are. Our life can be radically changed by God. Conversion is a miracle that happens when the life of God intersects with human personality. Once God enters the picture, our life will never be the same again. Until then, we may be religious, and we may be a very good person and we may obey all the rules of the church, but we have not been converted. Conversion is entirely a conviction that long-held prejudices can be overcome, lifetime habits can be broken, and deeply ingrained patterns of sin can be erased over time. Conversion is the certainty that what we were does not determine what we are, and what we are does not determine what we will be. We can be changed, we can be different, our life can move in an entirely new direction. God does not call the qualified, but he qualifies the called. Conversion is a truth and if we take that truth away from Christianity, it ceases to be a supernatural religion. If the possibility of real change is gone, then we have nothing to offer but a set of rules.

On this Second Sunday of Advent as we light the second candle which is the symbol of Peace, we are invited to decide which route we want to take? We can prepare ourselves to take the path to conversion or we can stay as we are. Each day is an open invitation for us to choose and decide. An unknown author wrote these beautiful words to help us to choose and let peace within ourselves prevail.

"I have a choice about today

I woke up early today, excited over all I get to do before the clock strikes midnight. I have responsibilities to fulfill today, and I am important. My job is to choose what kind of day I am going to have:

Today I can complain because the weather is rainy, or I can be thankful that the grass is getting watered for free.

Today I can feel sad that I don't have more money, or I can be glad that my finances encourage me to plan my purchases wisely and guide me away from waste.

Today I can grumble about my health, or I can rejoice that I am alive.

Today I can lament over all that my parents didn't give me when I was growing up or I can feel grateful that they allowed me to be born.

Today I can cry because roses have thorns, or I can celebrate those thorns have roses.

Today I can mourn my lack of friends, or I can excitedly embark upon a quest to discover new relationships.

Today I can whine because I have to go to work, or I can shout for joy because I have a job to do.

Today I can complain because I have to go to school or eagerly open my mind and fill it with rich new tidbits of knowledge.

Today I can murmur dejectedly because I have to do housework, or I can appreciate that I have a place to call home.

Today stretches ahead of me, waiting to be shaped. And here I am, the sculptor who gets to do the shaping.

What today will be like is up to me. I get to choose what kind of day I will have!

Have a GREAT DAY ... unless you have other plans and please remember, a 'Smile' will make the days go better”.

Prophet Ezekiel was given the task to help people to convert from their sinful ways and come back to the Lord; “But if the wicked turn away from all their sins that they have committed and keep all my statutes and do what is lawful and right, they shall surely live; they shall not die. None of the transgressions that they have committed shall be remembered against them; for the righteousness that they have done they shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, says the Lord God, and not rather that they should turn from their ways and live? But when the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity and do the same abominable things that the wicked do, shall they live? None of the righteous deeds that they have done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which they are guilty and the sin they have committed, they shall die”. St. James also helps us to play the real role of a disciples by bringing people back to the Lord “My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner’s soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins”.

The Holy Bible is full of conversion stories but especially the New Testament. Most of Jesus’s disciples were fishermen, but their lives were changed the day they met with Jesus. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read about the conversion story of Saul who later was called Paul. His conversion changed the face of Christianity, and he became the Apostle of the Gentiles. I strongly believe that the season of Advent not only prepare us to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, but it also opens for us the ways to work on our conversion. Conversion does bring inner peace and inner peace leads us to make Jesus the center of our lives.

The Prophet Baruch in the First Reading encouraging everyone to experience the beauty of the glory from God “Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, of Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God”. He is prophesying during the time when people are suffering and missing Jerusalem. They are sad because the beauty of Jerusalem is being stolen away from them and people are in the state of mourning. He is encouraging people to choose the path of conversion and believe that God the Almighty Father is going to be with them “For God will give you evermore the name, ‘Righteous, Peace, Godly Glory’”. If we choose the path of conversion and trust in the Lord, then there will be humility and peace. He does remind that once the salvation will come everything is going to be safe for Israel “For God will

lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that comes from him". The preparation for the conversion of our hearts is very important because we must have pure and blameless hearts to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord.

An old pencil maker took his newest pencil aside, just before he was about to pack them into a box. Imagining the little fellow as a person he recalled a few things about the pencil.

"There are five things you need to know," he said to his pencil, "before I send you out into the world. Always remember these five things - never forget them - and you will become the best pencil you can be!

"The first thing is to remember that you will be able to do many great things, but only if you put yourself in someone else's hands.

"From time to time you will experience a painful sharpening but remember that this will make you a better pencil.

"Also, keep in mind that you will be able to correct any mistakes you might make along the way.

"And the most important part of you is what's on the inside.

"And remember this, as well, upon every surface that you are used, you must leave your mark. No matter what else happens, you must continue to write."

It seemed the pencil listened to him and promised he would remember these five things so that he could live his life with heart and purpose.

Isn't true with our conversion of heart, though painful, we will enjoy peace later?

In the Second Reading St. Paul is thanking Philippians for their good deeds and helping other people to prepare for the day of the Lord "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of the Jesus". I think this 2nd Sunday of Advent not only invites us to conversion but encourages us to help other people to convert their lives and come to follow Jesus. What an amazing appreciation from St. Paul for people to experience Jesus's love. St. Bernard reflecting on the coming of Jesus says "We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible. In the first coming he was seen on earth, dwelling among men; he himself testifies that they saw him and hated him. In the final coming all flesh will see the salvation of our God, and they will look on him whom they pierced. The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect who see the Lord within their selves, and they are saved. In his first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming he comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and majesty".

He continues to say "Because this coming lies between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the first coming to the last. In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last, he will appear as our life; in this middle coming, he is our rest and consolation. In case someone should think that what we say about this middle coming is sheer invention, listen to what our Lord himself says: If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. There is another passage of Scripture which reads: He who fears God will do good, but something further has been said about the one who loves, that is, that he will keep God's word. Where is God's word to be kept? Obviously in the heart, as the prophet says: I have hidden your words in my heart, so that I may not sin against you".

Further he adds "Keep God's word in this way. Let it enter your very being, let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. Feed on goodness, and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away. Fill your soul with richness and strength. If you keep the word of God in this way, it will also keep you. The Son with the

Father will come to you. The great Prophet who will build the new Jerusalem will come, the one who makes all things new. This coming will fulfill what is written: As we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, we shall also bear the likeness of the heavenly man. Just as Adam's sin spread through all mankind and took hold of all, so Christ, who created and redeemed all, will glorify all once he takes possession of all".

The choice to choose the path of conversion, helps us not only to see the needs of other people but also it helps us to see our relationship with him who died on the Cross. The following story I would say will help us to see our role as Christian to walk slowly and continuously with the Lord.

"A shop owner placed a sign above his door that said: 'Puppies for Sale.' Signs like this always have a way of attracting young children, and to no surprise, a boy saw the sign and approached the owner; 'How much are you going to sell the puppies for?' he asked. The store owner replied, 'Anywhere from \$30 to \$50.' The little boy pulled out some change from his pocket. 'I have \$2.37,' he said. 'Can I please look at them?' The shop owner smiled and whistled. Out of the kennel came Lady, who ran down the aisle of his shop followed by five teeny, tiny balls of fur. One puppy was lagging considerably behind. Immediately the little boy singled out the lagging, limping puppy and said, 'What's wrong with that little dog?' The shop owner explained that the veterinarian had examined the little puppy and had discovered it didn't have a hip socket. It would always limp. It would always be lame. The little boy became excited. 'That is the puppy that I want to buy.' The shop owner said, 'No, you don't want to buy that little dog. If you really want him, I'll just give him to you.' The little boy got quite upset. He looked straight into the store owner's eyes, pointing his finger, and said, 'I don't want you to give him to me. That little dog is worth every bit as much as all the other dogs and I'll pay full price. In fact, I'll give you \$2.37 now, and 50 cents a month until I have him paid for.' The shop owner countered, 'You really don't want to buy this little dog. He is never going to be able to run and jump and play with you like the other puppies.'

To his surprise, the little boy reached down and rolled up his pant leg to reveal a badly twisted, crippled left leg supported by a big metal brace. He looked up at the shop owner and softly replied, 'Well, I don't run so well myself, and the little puppy will need someone who understands!'"

The Gospel of this Sunday of Advent, the Liturgy places us in the school of John the Baptist, who preached "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins". Perhaps we ask ourselves, "Why do we have to convert? Conversion is about an atheist who becomes a believer or a sinner who becomes just. But we don't need it. We are already Christians. So, we are okay". But this isn't true. In thinking like this, we don't realize that it is precisely because of this presumption that we are Christians, that everyone is good, that we're okay that we must convert: from the supposition that, all things considered, things are fine as they are, and we don't need any kind of conversion.

But let us ask ourselves: is it true that in the various situations and circumstances of life, we have within us the same feelings that Jesus has? Is it true that we feel as Christ feels? For example, when we suffer some wrongdoing or some insult, do we manage to react without animosity and to forgive from the heart those who apologize to us? How difficult it is to forgive! How difficult! "We're going to pay for this" that phrase comes from inside! When we are called to share joys or sorrows, do we know how to sincerely weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice? When we should express our faith, do we know how to do it with courage and simplicity, without being ashamed of the Gospel? Thus, we can ask ourselves so

many questions. We're not all right. We must always convert and have the sentiments that Jesus had. Why then conversion is important for us though we are already baptized? We almost all drive our cars, and we follow the traffic rules but why do we really need them? Don't we know speed limits, school zones, stop, yield, merge, do not enter, no parking and construction zone signs? We all know but these signs are everyday reminder to be take care of our driving habits. So same is with our preparation for conversion. Everyday we need to remind ourselves and grow strong in relationship with the Lord.

Holy Father Pope Francis says "The voice of the Baptist still cries in the deserts of humanity today, what are today's deserts? — closed minds and hardened hearts. And "His voice" causes us to ask ourselves if we are following the right path, living a life according to the Gospel. Today, as then, he admonishes us with the words of the Prophet Isaiah: "Prepare the way of the Lord". It is a pressing invitation to open one's heart and receive the salvation that God offers ceaselessly, almost obstinately, because he wants us all to be free from the slavery of sin. But the text of the prophet amplifies this voice, portending that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God". And salvation is offered to every man, and every people, without exclusion, to each one of us. None of us can say, "I'm a saint; I'm perfect; I'm already saved". No. We must always accept this offer of salvation. This is the reason for the season of Advent: to go farther on this

journey of salvation, this path that Jesus taught us. God wants all of mankind to be saved through Jesus, the one mediator (1 Tim 2:4-6)".

Therefore, each one of us is called to make Jesus known to those who do not yet know him. But this is not to proselytize. No, it is to open a door. "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Cor 9:16), St Paul declared. If Our Lord Jesus has changed our lives, and he changes it every time we go to him, how can we not feel the passion to make him known to those we encounter at work, at school, in our apartment building, in the hospital, in meeting places? If we look around us, we find people who would be willing to begin — or begin again — a journey of faith were they to encounter Christians in love with Jesus. I leave this question: "Am I truly in love with Jesus? Am I convinced that Jesus offers me and gives me salvation?"



Photo by Fr. Iqbal Khurshid

There was a very wealthy man who was bothered by severe eye pain. He consulted many physicians and was being treated by several. He did not stop consulting a galaxy of medical experts; he consumed heavy loads of drugs and underwent hundreds of injections. But the ache persisted with more vigour than before.

At last, a monk who was supposed to be an expert in treating such patients was called for by the suffering man. The monk understood his problem and said that for some time he should concentrate only on green colours and not to let his eyes fall on any other colours. It was a strange prescription, but he was desperate and decided to try it. The millionaire got together a group of painters and purchased barrels of green paint and directed that every object his eye was likely to fall to be painted green just as the monk had directed. When the monk came to visit him after few days, the millionaire's servants ran with buckets of green paint and poured it on him since he was in red dress, lest their master see any other colour and his eye ache would come back.

Hearing this, the monk laughed and said "If only you had purchased a pair of green spectacles, worth just a few dollars, you could have saved these walls and trees and pots and all other articles and also could have saved a large share of his fortune. You cannot paint the world green."

Let us change our vision and the world will appear accordingly. It is foolish to shape the world, let us shape ourselves first.

Let'



Second Sunday of Advent



Children Resources for the Second Sunday of Advent

- [Gospel](#) Reflection: We can prepare the way for the Lord by making good choices this Advent season. This way, we will have peaceful hearts. We'll be ready to welcome Jesus when he comes. (Loyola Press)
 - [Kid's Bulletin for this Sunday](#)
 - [Colouring page this Sunday](#) - *Invite them to decorate the bauble by writing or drawing what change they will try to make this Advent, cut it out and hang it on their tree once it is up.*
 - [Sunday Connection for Second Sunday of Advent](#) (Gr. 1-8)
 - Video: [Studio 3:16](#) | Weekly Comedy for kids (anticipating the Sunday Gospel)
 - **St. Albert the Great parish** is creating a five-episode weekly "Kids can Advent too!" video. Videos can be found on their [parish website](#) or [YouTube channel](#)
- **Children's Sunday Liturgy** for the Second Sunday of Advent
 - [Children's Liturgy for leaders/parents](#) (with intercessions and activities) - by CAFOD | [Illustration](#)
 - [Children's Liturgy of the Word with Miss Heidi](#) (Catholic TV)
 - Does your parish have online Sunday program for children? If so, please share it with communications@calgarydiocese.ca

Visit the [Diocesan Event Calendar](#)

Follow us on Social Media

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Weekly reflections can be found here:

[Vatican News](#) | [The Sunday Website](#) | [Sunday Connection](#) | [CCCB Reflection \(new link\)](#)

Daily and Sunday Mass Prayers & Readings:

[CCCB Daily Readings](#)

(pick the desired date)

Full schedule of Parish Livestream Masses:

<https://www.catholicyy.ca> | TELUS Optik TV

Ch. 877 (choose

Diocese of Calgary tile logo). For other online

Masses, visit [Salt+Light TV](#), [Shalom World TV](#),

[EWTN](#) and [Vision TV](#)

COVID-19 Resources

- [Sacraments & Liturgies](#)

- [Spiritual Resources](#)

- [Sacrament Preparation](#)

(First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation)

- [Online Formation Opportunity](#)



SUBSCRIBE AT catholiccyc.ca/Faithfully

If you haven't already, please subscribe to the [Diocesan publication Faithfully](#) - to keep you updated with what's happening in our Diocese. Faithfully gives a snapshot of faith at work in the lives of everyday people in our Diocese and provide us with opportunities to spread the Good News of Christ beyond the walls of our churches. New release coming up this Monday! To subscribe, [click here](#).

I am blessed

The 2021 [I am Blessed](#) campaign has started and will conclude on Sunday, January 9, at the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Action items highlighted this year:

1. [Pray now](#) - Supporting others with prayer by praying in solidarity with them; ideas on what prayers to pray and what to do if others ask to pray for them.
2. [Act now](#) - Offering tips on how to be a good friend especially to those who are in need; getting familiar with services available in our midst as we may need to lead others to seek help.
3. [Give now](#) - Providing financial assistance online to programs and initiatives that empower others.



4. For **Advent resources** for individual, families or children, [visit our Advent Page](#)
5. Download I am Blessed **graphics**: [Square](#) | [Wide](#)

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples – Dec. 12

On Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Church in Canada celebrates the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. This year, the reflection by the Council centres on the theme *We are called to Healing, Forgiveness, Reconciliation*. "We, the Body of Christ, are called to live in friendship and harmony with all peoples. We are brothers and sisters of our One Creator God. God gives everything to all of us. God creates and sustains the wonderful diversity of peoples, cultures, races and creeds."

- Read: [2021 Message of the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council](#)
- All are invited to join their Indigenous sisters and brothers in a special way this day through prayer and acts of solidarity.

Mission Mexico Sunday | Dec. 11/12

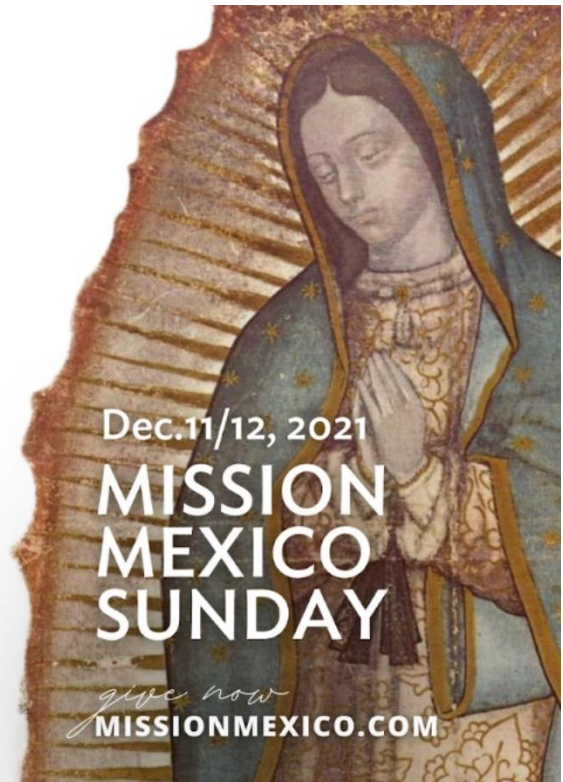


A message from
BISHOP WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN

"The feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe coincides with the Third Sunday of Advent and therefore we designate Sunday, December 12 as Mission Mexico Day in the Diocese of Calgary."

In 2021, we supported Mission Mexico through the following:

- \$27,500** 26 ongoing bursaries for students to study university
- \$23,350** to support the operation of Champagnat High School of the Mountain in Potoichan
- \$4,350** to support the 5-person team that assists the religious sisters in running the La Estacion Kindergarten project.
- \$2,670** to support the Xalpitzahuac Health Project
- \$15,000** direct support / assistance to those who experience poverty
- \$27,130** expenses: truck, office, apartment, supplies



This year, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe which is customarily Mission Mexico Day in the Diocese of Calgary falls on a Sunday, December 12. Mission Mexico has always relied on the support of the Catholic parishes in raising the awareness of the work of the Diocese with our sisters and brothers in Mexico who experience poverty and are in need of support and empowerment.

- [Pastoral Letter from Bishop McGrattan on Mission Mexico Day in the Diocese](#)
- There will be a **Second Collection on the Third Sunday of Advent (Dec. 11/12) for Mission Mexico.** **Direct link to donate online** catholiccy.ca/donatemissionmexico
- Download promo [graphic](#)



A Toolkit for Parishes on Palliative Care

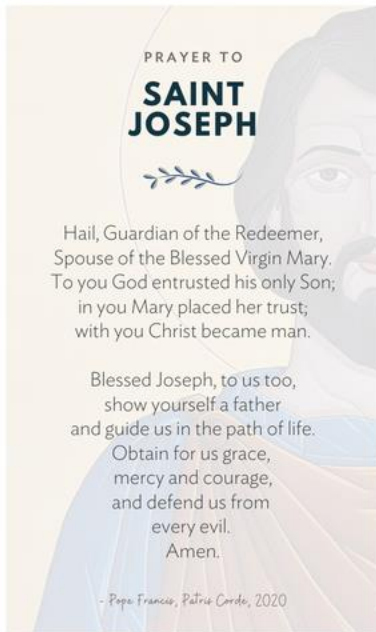
New resources from CCCB: *Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care*. This toolkit seeks to offer support and formation for parishioners with faith communities to assist them when faced with the illness and death of loved ones, particularly through the lens of palliative care, faith and *Compassionate Communities*. All material, including video files, images and posters for promotions, are available for direct download here: <https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/suffering-and-end-of-life/horizons-of-hope-a-toolkit-for-catholic-parishes-on-palliative-care/>

#IamChurch: voices of our brothers and sisters with disabilities



Being differently abled does not limit someone from being a “fully-fledged member of the ecclesial community”. Pope Francis reminded us of this when he said that Baptism gives everyone, “without exclusion or discrimination”, the possibility to exclaim: “I am Church!”. [#IamChurch](#) is the slogan of the campaign launched by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. Beginning on 6 December, 5 video testimonies from people all around the world will weekly tells us what it means to be a Christian with disabilities.

- [Watch video now](#) (1.5 mnts)



The end of St. Joseph's Year – Dec. 8

On December 8, the Church will conclude the Year of Saint Joseph. We invite you to cap off this special Year of Saint Joseph with the event & resources below:

- **Webinar: Devotion & Consecration to St. Joseph** with speaker Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC. When: Dec. 8, 2021 at 5 pm MT. Webinar is in English. [Register here](#)
- **Resources** on prayers and devotions to St. Joseph will still be available at <https://www.catholiccyyc.ca/stjoseph.html>

In the spirit of Advent and reconciliation



CCCB has released a video recording of a bishop in Canada reflecting on the Gospel Reading for each Sunday of Advent.

Archbishop Don Bolen: "If we are to prepare the way for right relations with Indigenous Peoples, we need to hear those voices of suffering, and the voices of those experiencing intergenerational trauma. God has heard the suffering. And God wants us to hear that suffering too, and to open our hearts to it."

- [Watch reflection video for the 2nd Sunday of Advent](#) | [Reflection text](#)
- [Weekly guided reflections](#)

The Advent Season

Advent has a twofold nature: it prepares us for Christmas, when we recall Christ's first coming among us, and it is also a time when we look forward to his second coming at the end of the ages. Advent is a season of joyful expectation.

During Advent, each Sunday's Gospel reading has a specific focus. The Old Testament readings, especially those taken from Isaiah, are prophecies about the Messiah and messianic times. The selection from the writings of the Apostles present exhortation and instruction on different themes of this season.

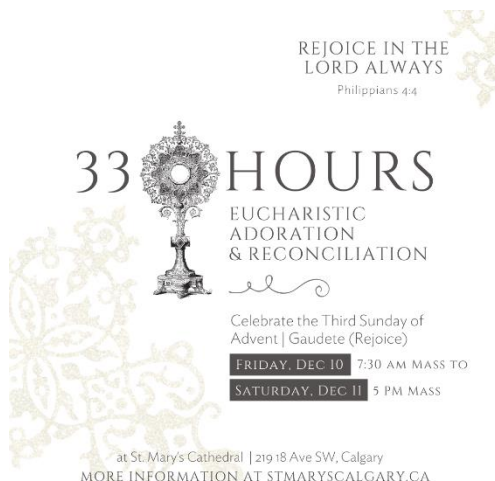
- For Advent resources for individual, families or children, [visit our Advent Page](#)



Bishop's Apology video

The Archdiocese of Toronto held a virtual Cardinal's Dinner with the theme of healing and reconciliation. It includes reflections from Indigenous voices as well as some Indigenous dance and brief remarks from Cardinal Collins. Of particular note is the apology of the Canadian Bishops, representing various regions of the country. The apology can be found approximately 43 minutes into the program.

- [Watch the program here](#)



33 hours of Eucharistic Adoration & Reconciliation at the Cathedral

To celebrate the third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, everyone is invited to St Mary's Cathedral to spend 33 continuous hours in Eucharistic Adoration and the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation starting Friday Dec. 10 at the 7:30 am Mass and concluding on Saturday, Dec 11 at the 5 pm Mass. For more information, please visit <https://www.stmaryscalgary.ca>

Feast of St. Nicholas – Dec. 6

Children tell lots of fun stories about Santa Claus, Pere Noel, or Kriss Kringle. All of these stories remind us of how much we're loved and of how happy we are when we give. The earliest stories we know were told about St. Nicholas, the bishop of Myra. St. Nicholas was so grateful for the life God had given him that he just couldn't stop giving joy and hope to others—no matter how far he had to travel or how many roofs he had to climb. (Source: Loyola Press)

- [Learn about St. Nicholas](#) (Loyola Press)
- [5 things you \(probably\) did not know about Santa](#) (Aleteia)
- [How St. Nick teaches us that saints belong to everybody, everywhere](#) (Aleteia)
- [Celebrate St. Nicholas with these fun tradition](#) (Catholic Digest)
- [St. Nicholas Day activities, gifts & crafts guide](#) (Catholic Icing)
- [Novena to St. Nicholas](#) (Ascension Press)

Advent Missions & Retreats

Full listing can be found on our [Advent page](#).

Please bookmark catholiccyyc.ca/advent and share it with your parishioners. Advent retreats, missions, reconciliation and penitential services will be added as we receive them. New resources will be added each week. [Faithfully](#) will share a special **Advent Novena booklet** next week. Stay tuned!

Faithfully print edition | November 2021

As promised, *Faithfully* is available monthly as a printable version (curated and compact) for those without access to the digital edition.

- [Download PDF of November edition](#) (click November 2021 PDF)

Resources & Announcements

Reminder | Upcoming Events

- . Dec. 6-9 | [Advent Mission with Fr. Max Oliva](#) at Holy Spirit, Calgary
- a. Dec. 6-8 | [Advent Retreat with Peter Thompson](#) at St. Anthony's, Calgary
- b. Dec. 7 | [Advent by Candlelight with Fr. Daniel Wilson LC](#) at Sacred Heart, Calgary
- c. Dec. 7 | [Hear the Angel Sing](#): CCSD High School Choral Festival at St. Michael's, Calgary & Livestream
- d. Dec. 7 | [Setting Captives Free](#) - Advent Mission at St. Albert the Great, Calgary
- e. Dec. 8 | [Feast of the Immaculate Conception Outdoor Eucharistic & Rosary Procession](#) at Sacred Heart, Calgary
- f. Dec. 8 | [God's Promise](#) - Advent Mission with Fr. Kevin Tumback & Michael Chiasson at All Saints Parish (Assumption Church), Lethbridge
- g. Dec. 10 | [Festival of Creches](#) at St. Mary's Cathedral
- h. Dec. 10-11 | [Rejoice in the Lord Always: 33 hours of Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation](#) at St. Mary's Cathedral
- i. Dec. 12 | [Greccio: A St. Francis Christmas Pageant](#) at Mount St. Francis, Cochrane
- j. Dec. 12 | [Advent Mission with Bishop Emeritus Henry](#) at St. Joseph, Calgary
- k. Dec. 12 | [SJCS Nine Lessons & Carols](#) - Livestream
- l. More Advent Missions & Retreat at catholiccyyc.ca/advent
- m. Find more online formation opportunities, [click here](#)

n. Submit your parish events [here](#) - click "Submit Event" in the [Calendar](#)

Advent Saints craft - printable ornaments

This Advent, keep your kids focused on the true meaning of the season by celebrating Saint feast days! These Advent Saint ornaments last through the whole Advent season, straight through Christmas and the Epiphany. [Read more](#)

St. Ambrose: Strangest life story

St. Ambrose (Feast day: Dec. 7) was one of the four original doctors of the Church, and he baptized St. Augustine. He also had perhaps the strangest life story of any of the Church Fathers. [Read more](#)

Immaculate Conception prayer to place 2022 in Mary's hands | As we prepare for the feast of the Immaculate Conception (Feast day: Dec. 8) and the close the Year of St. Joseph, we place in the loving protection of both Mary and Joseph, in this time of preparation for Christ's birth, all the many worries and preoccupations that weigh upon us. [Read more](#)

Grandparents' Faith Cafe

The CGA is delighted to announce Sister Anna Marie McGuan as guest speaker for its December Grandparents' Faith Café which will take place online via Zoom on Tuesday Dec. 14 at 12:30 pm MT. Sister Anna Marie will speak on the theme of 'Grandparents as Catechists'. [More info](#) | [Register here](#)

Resources of older adults

There's a difference between feeling lonely and being socially isolated. They can happen at the same time and are interrelated — but they're different. For older adults, social connections and community support are essential to feeling good, having fun, staying healthy, and continuing to live a full and happy life. Check out the resources from the City of Calgary on ways to connect with people across generations. Explore the resources and discover ways to learn, connect and get involved. [Read more](#)

For couples preparing for marriage:

[Rosary for Engaged Couples](#) in the Light of *Amoris Laetitia* | During this year dedicated to St. Joseph, engaged couples, even young people who are dating, are invited to pray together turning with trust and love to Mary, recreating the atmosphere of communion, love and friendship that was experienced in the family of Nazareth. Mary and Joseph were first engaged and then married, and they show us a specific tangible example of humanity and holiness, that can be achieved in our relationship with God and with those we love. Until December 8, 2021, engaged couples will be able to obtain the Plenary Indulgence by reciting the Holy Rosary and fulfilling the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Holy Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father: Our Father, Hail Mary). Note to Parish Staff – please share with parishioners, especially couples in marriage preparation and young adult groups.

People & Planet First

In case you missed it last week, please share this important campaign from Caritas Canada - Development & Peace to your parishioners:

- [Messages for parish bulletins \(Word\)](#) | [Short talk](#)
- Banners: [Vertical banner](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Square](#)
- Posters: [Poster 11x17 inches](#)
- Videos: [General campaign video](#) | [Video on Victor Vasquez \(Honduras\)](#)
- Video: [Due Dilligence Basics](#)
- Add your name to this Petition to the House of Commons, which calls on the government to require Canadian companies to prevent adverse human rights impacts and environmental damage throughout their global operations and supply chains. Sign online at: <https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/people-planet-first/take-action/>
- Join our national event on October 16 at 2 pm MST, some of our partners as well as human rights defenders will discuss People and Planet First. Click here to register: <https://loom.ly/R8TfU8s>

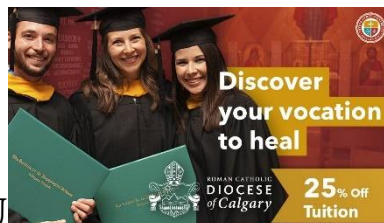


Share your photos

Got a great photo? Whether it's of parish life, ministry life or home life, the Diocese of Calgary is wanting to promote daily Catholic life in action. Submit your photo [here](#)

The Year of *Amoris Laetitia* Family

Through a series of 10 videos, the Holy Father, with the help of several families, invites us to journey together to rediscover the family as a gift, despite every problem, obstacle and challenge that families have to face today. In the first video "[Walking Together](#)" Pope Francis and a family share about the beauty of being a family and how each person is called to lovingly care for the life of the family. Never a problem, families are always a gift and, in terms of the future, they are an opportunity. Each video is accompanied by a [guide](#).



Reduced tuition rates from DMU

Divine Mercy University (DMU) is the first and only graduate school that integrates the science of psychology and proven therapeutic methods with the Catholic-Christian understanding of the person, marriage and the family. DMU provides educational instruction to all Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary applicants at a reduced tuition.

Parish members in good standing with their respective parish will receive **a tuition reduction of 25% for any of the DMU online programs**. To learn more about Divine Mercy University, contact divinemercury.edu | 703-416-1441

Online Faith Formation Courses

Certificate in Catholic Studies

The Benedict XVI Institute for New Evangelization offers a comprehensive selection of courses on various aspects of the Catholic faith. All are offered online. Each course runs five weeks and costs \$85. Take an individual course for interest, or work toward one or all of the twenty two specialized Certificates in Catholic Studies. Students may register completely online at newman.edu/ccs Visit our website for further details and FAQs.

Other online formation opportunities

These formation opportunities will help you with your faith journey and to help you grow closer to Christ. Find a list of webinars and courses on our diocesan website [here](#).

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Follow us on Social Media

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)

Weekly reflections can be found here:

[Vatican News](#) | [The Sunday Website](#) | [Sunday Connection](#)

Daily and Sunday Mass Prayers & Readings: [CCCB Daily Readings](#) (pick the desired date)

Livestreams

Full schedule of Parish Livestream Masses in the Diocese of Calgary is available at:

<https://www.catholicyc.ca>.

You can also watch parish Sunday Masses via TELUS Optik TV Ch. 876 and 877 (choose Diocese of Calgary tile logo). For other online Masses, visit [Salt+Light TV](#), [Shalom World TV](#), [EWTN](#) and [Vision TV](#).

Our parishes rely on your Sunday offerings for maintenance and growth. You can also use the online giving page on the diocesan website to set up a one-time or recurring donation to your parish via credit-card. Funds donated will be transferred to the selected parish. Give now at <https://www.catholicyc.ca/donateparish> [or contact your Parish to set up a direct debit deposit].



- **Advent at the Retreat Centres**

- FCJ Centre, Calgary
 - [Advent fireside gathering](#) on Dec. 1 at 6:30 pm to 8 pm; [Taize Prayer of Light](#) on Dec. 3 at 7 pm; [Deck the Halls of our Hearts](#): A family event in preparation for Christmas on Dec. 18 from 1:30 pm to 4 pm; [Full listing here](#)
- Mount St. Francis, Cochrane
 - Advent twilight retreat on Nov. 30 and Dec. 15 at 6 pm to 9 pm; Advent retreat with Br. Michael on Dec. 3-5; Winter Stillness Retreat on Dec. 10-12; Greccio: A St. Francis Christmas Pageant on Dec. 12 - virtual event | More info and [full listing here](#)
- Martha Centre, Lethbridge
 - Advent twilight retreat on Dec. 6 at 4:45 pm to 9 pm. More info and [full listing here](#)



Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre is nestled in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains where are all welcome in the name of Christ. The Franciscan Friars of Canada, inspired by the vision and example of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, have served here since 1949.

We offer silent retreats and spiritual direction. We also serve those in the 12 Step Program through weekend and evening Serenity retreats. We listen to 5th steps. We host groups and individuals seeking a place of quiet and stillness in an often-hectic world. We can accommodate up to 50 people (46 rooms/50 beds). We have one large and one small meeting room, a library and chapel. We can accommodate most dietary restrictions. There are approximately 500 acres to explore.

Our retreats are organized through a group of dedicated volunteer Captains that oversee the registration. Please see our retreats page for more information.

We have strong ties with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary; other Christian Churches, schools, and organizations; as well as others not affiliated with any particular faith but who are in accord with our mission of peace, healing and prayer. We value the many loyal friends and benefactors that have supported us in our ministry for over 70 years.