

Mass Offerings

Tues.	Sept 19	7:00 pm	+	Fredita & Kayla Enumah Elmore Schimper
Wed.	Sept 20	9:00 am	+	Muriel Huk Sandy Babij
Thurs.	Sept 21	9:00 am	+	Charles Schiller Peter Clemson
Fri.	Sep 22	9:00 am	+	Armand Baril Donna Pipa
Sat.	Sept 23	9:00am	+	Brandon Myhre Larry Langley
		5pm	+	Grace Igonifagha George Igonifagha
Sun.	Sept 24	8:30am	+	Antony Thomas
		10:00am	+	Irene Abele
		12:00pm		All Parishioners
		6:00pm	+	Antony Thomas

St. Thomas More will begin the "*Bible Timeline*" on Sept. 25 at 7pm. For more information or to register for the study, visit the registration table after Mass or contact Erich Reimer at 780 700-7916 or email erichreimer1954@gmail.com or Martin Baclig at 780 691-1838 or mbaclig10@gmail.com

Society of Saint Vincent De Paul is short of the following items for the food bank: juice boxes, dish soap, shampoo, coffee - 1 lb packages, liquid hand soap and syrup for pancakes. One of the recent calls for food was from a couple both unemployable due to chronic illnesses. They only had a couple of day's food in their apartment at the time of our visit and thanks to your donations to the food bank they were provided with the food they required. SSVP cares for the less fortunate in our community by offering food, clothing, household goods, furniture, and in dire circumstances in order to prevent evictions and utility cut offs we can also assist with payments for rent, gas and electricity. We do this on behalf of parishioners, in the name of Christ who loved the poor. Remember, if you or someone you know needs help or wishes to donate furniture or household goods, please give us a call at 780 471-5577 or visit us at www.ssvpedmonton.ca

Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, September 24, after the 8:30 and 10am masses in the Parish hall. Come and enjoy pancakes with strawberries & whipped cream, sausages, scrambled eggs, coffee, tea & juice. Cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family.

Marriage Preparation: The following programs are currently available to couples seeking Marriage Preparation:

Catholic Engaged Encounter: <http://ceewest.com/communities/edmonton/>

On-line Marriage Preparation: <http://caedm.ca/PastoralParishServices/LifeandFamily/MarriagePreparation/MarriagePreparationPrograms/OtherPrograms/OnlineMarriagePreparation>

Calendar

<u>Tues Sept 19</u> Mass 7 pm Reconciliation 6:00 pm	<u>Wed Sept 20</u> Mass 9 am Reconciliation 8:30 am	<u>Thurs Sept 21</u> Mass 9 am Reconciliation 8:30 am
<u>Friday Sept 22</u> Mass 9 am Reconciliation 8:30 am	<u>Sat Sept 23</u> Mass 9 am Reconciliation 8:30 am & Mass 5 pm Reconciliation 4:00 pm	<u>Sun Sept 24</u> Masses 8:30 am 10 am 12 noon 6 pm

Grocery Card Program

The St. Thomas More Parish grocery card program welcomes more participation. Members of the Knights of Columbus sell grocery cards (**Safeway, Superstore, Sobeys & Save-On**) before and after all Sunday morning masses. They will also be selling grocery cards on the first and third Saturday of each month before and after the 5pm mass. **Tim Horton's \$25 gift cards** are also available for purchase. This is a great way to assist parish projects (i.e. upgrading the church lighting and the cement entrance steps) and also to help the less fortunate. Please take the time to support the program on a regular basis.

Introduction to Centering Prayer at Providence Renewal Centre:

Saturday, Oct. 21, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, \$140.00 (lunch included) plus six Wednesday evenings. Experience a centuries old prayer practice of our Christian tradition. Register on line at www.providencerenewal.ca or call 780 701-1854



St. Thomas More Parish
210 Haddow Close, Edmonton, AB, T6R 2P3

P: (780) 434-6313 F: (780) 438-2088
www.stmparish.com

Office Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

September 17, 2017

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Clergy:

Pastor: Fr. Antony Fernando, sdb
Assoc. Pastor: Fr. Sagayaraj Devadoss, sdb
Permanent Deacon: Deacon Randy Abele

Pastoral Ministries:

Family Co—ord. Monica Bober...ext. 227
family@stmparish.com
Youth Co-ord. Sara Dmitri....ext. 223
youth@stmparish.com
Youth Co-ord. Corina Santaera....ext. 237
youth@stmparish.com
Sacrament Asst. Kathleen Eistetter...ext. 235
stm.sacrament@stmparish.com
Sacrament Asst. Diane Middleton ext. 238
Diane.Middleton@caedm.ca
Music Co-ord. Johanna Dietrich
Johanna.Dietrich@caedm.ca
RCIA Co-ord. Darlene Smigelski...ext. 226
stm.rcia.coord@stmparish.com
RCIA Asst. Kathleen Gust...ext. 226

Office Staff:

Office Admin. David Matwie....ext. 236
stm.manager@stmparish.com
Secretary...Olivia Dias ..ext. 228.
stm.secretary@stmparish.com
Bookkeeper Dora Jankowska....ext. 222
stm.bookkeeper@stmparish.com
Custodian...Arthur Connick.....ext.231

NEW

All bulletin items and after mass announcements should be directed to:

Olivia Dias at :
stm.secretary@stmparish.com

Sept 10

Regular Sunday Collection
\$15,925.00

Together-We-Serve (TWS)
\$1,030.00

TWS (to date) \$132,210.00
TWS (Goal) 170,000

Teen Sexting

My Dear People,

RAMPANT “sexting” – the culture of sending and receiving nude images is becoming a major problem among students in our schools today. One of our parishioners who works in the school told me about a delicate concern he experienced in dealing with an issue of a student’s photo “digitally altered by another person in a suggestive and offensive way”. He was told, boys often sent suggestive photos of themselves to girls in order to “warm them up”. “It is the new form of dating ritual. This is a way of saying ‘hello’ these days”, he said, to my greatest horror.

I was told again by some young people that it was quite a common experience for young girls today, to have social media requests from boys to provide them with a nude or semi-nude photo. They added that some times they get requests from fellows who are even younger than themselves! “This is not just a boy problem. It would seem that it is not uncommon for girls to send unsolicited photos to boys. “It would appear that sexting is rampant and is now seen as a part of ‘normal life’ for our children.” What can we, the educators and parents do about teen sexting?

Child and adolescent psychologist Dr. Michael Carr-Gregg, does not discredit social media as a way to “promote a sense of belonging and self-esteem” among adolescents, however he warns that what is posted online is permanent. And authorities in the cyber investigation cell do keep track of these isolated postings only to later include the offenders in the sex-offender register,” he said. “Unfortunately, their online actions will now have consequences that will haunt them for the rest of their lives.”

Dr. Carr-Gregg has also written about the link between social media, depression and suicide. “What young people write on their social media profile can be barometers of their mood and mental states, and that we ignore it, at our peril,” he said; as teens progressed through high school they could feel more and more pressure to engage in sexting. “For girls, it is often the pressure around not being seen as a ‘prude’, or even the expectation to look or act like their friends do,” and “For guys, it’s often pressure from peers around, humor and just having a joke, to feeling the pressure to have girls send photos to prove to friends that girls are throwing themselves at them.” We need to offer our growing kids a lot of input on being good Catholics and responsible digital citizens and the importance of having a strong moral compass.

As parents, we need to be at least a bit familiar with our children’s social media usage. I know that the balance between respecting our children’s need for privacy and our responsibility as parents is a tricky area but I wonder how many of our parish parents would be horrified if they viewed the text messages and posts their children made. Many kids use Apps like SnapChat which, I’m sure has some useful purposes but it is today used to post inappropriate photos. As parents, we need to upskill ourselves in this area. This is not the ‘dating rituals’ we used at their age but it is the world in which they are living and there are parts of that world that are just not “OK”. We need to work hard in keeping lines of communication open with our children and always remind them of our unconditional love, forever.

Yours in Christ and our Blessed Mother

Tony Fernando, sdb

Sacraments, Ministries & Other

First Holy Communion: The First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion sacrament program begins when the children are in grade 2. First day of registration is Saturday Oct 7th from 9am to 11am. Brochures available at your Catholic school or in our Parish, on our brochure stand.

Do you have or know a child between the ages of 8 and 15 who would like to become a Catholic?

Our **R.C.I.A.** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults ADAPTED FOR CHILDREN) Program is for children 8 to 15 years of age who are inquiring and seeking initiation into the Catholic Church. This includes children who have not been baptized and wish to be fully initiated into the Catholic Church (receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion) **OR** for children who have been baptized as members of another Christian community and wish to be initiated into the Catholic Church (receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and First Holy Communion). We begin in October, 2017 and continue to May 2018. To find out more, call Monica at **780-434-6313 ext. 227** or email **family@stmparish.com**

Front Step Replacement: The work to replace the front steps is scheduled to start on Monday, September 18. The work is going to take two weeks to complete. This is all weather dependent. While the replacement is taking place, the front doors will be closed to all traffic. We are requesting all parishioners to use either the south east door or the patio doors to enter and exit the church. For the weekend of September 23/24 we will not have coffee after mass, this is to allow parishioners free access to enter and leave via the patio doors. Thank you everyone for your patience and understanding during this time.

PRO-LIFE EVENT

Sunday, October 1st, 2017 our Parish will once again witness with Pro-Life signs for the annual Life Chain on 23rd. Avenue, and the four corners of Terwillegar Drive. We will meet between 2:00 and 2:15 pm at the Church parking lot to pick up our signs, and then walk to 23rd ave. to take our positions. We suggest to peacefully pray the Rosary, for the intention of the Unborn between 2:30 and 3:30pm, while holding up our signs. Bring your family and friends, to make a crowd !

Fall programs at Star of the North Retreat Centre:

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux: with **Rooney Punyi Educational Theatre** on Wed Oct 4, at 7:30 pm, cost \$20

RCIA

*Do you know someone who would like to become Catholic?
Would you like to Sponsor someone who would like to become Catholic?*

For Adults wishing to be initiated into the Catholic Church, the **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)** will run from **7th Sep 2017 to 20th May 2018.**

For practicing Catholics who wish to be a **Sponsor**, this is a richly rewarding experience of sharing faith and an opportunity to learn more about the “treasure” that is yours! A pamphlet depicting the four-phase RCIA process is located at the entrance of the Church. Visit the RCIA links at **www.stmparish.com** for more details including audio & slide shows of the teaching sessions. Contact Darlene Smigelski at **780-434-6313 ext. 226** or **780 435-3370**; **stm.rcia.coord@stmparish.com**

Baptism: The next Baptism office visit/registration date is Monday, Oct. 2. The 30 to 45 minute long appointment times are offered throughout the day and evening but do fill up quickly. Please gather all documents listed in the baptism brochure available in the brochure stand at the main doors or on the parish website. Once all documents have been provided you may choose a date for the baptism from the list in the brochure based on availability. We are now booking for November and 2018.

The upcoming dates for baptism preparation are the two Monday evenings of Sept. 18 & 25 from 7 to 9pm **OR** Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10am to 3pm. The preparation class is for parents and godparents and may be taken prior to registration or the babies arrival.

Catholic Drama at St. Thomas More

The Light of Christ Drama and Dance Ministry is seeking actors and dancers for a play called “Beauty of Conversion.”

Practices will held on Fridays from 5 to 7pm starting November 17th. The performance will be on April 20th and 21st. You must be at least 7 years of age in order to participate in the ministry and have a desire to act or dance, no experience is necessary. The cost is \$80 for the first family member and \$60 for the second and \$40 for any more children in the family. If a family is struggling financially but has a child who would like to participate please talk to me because every child is welcome. Please contact Renata at **god-is-love-trust-him@outlook.com** or 780 438-0516.

Ministries, Sacraments and Parish News

STM Scripture Study: meet at 7:30pm on Tuesdays, after the 7pm Mass, in the Library room. The cost for the study material is \$10.00. The study is called "Threshold to God's Word". We will meet for the following 10 weeks. Come for fellowship and to learn, pray, and share your faith. The study will help connect the transforming power of Scripture to the heart of our own spirituality - this powerful book is an invitation to unlock the door to God's word. The time commitment is 90 minutes each week. Those who have participated in other scripture studies have noted a positive impact upon faith life. For registration or information call Deacon Randy Abele at **(780) 435-5070** or **(780) 493-1972**.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Prayer Shawl Ministry: ladies meet every Friday morning, 9:30-11:30 in the Youth room to knit Prayer shawls. A Prayer shawl can be a large scarf, shawl or blanket that is knit while praying. They are blessed and recorded in the Prayer shawl book along with the name of the person that receives one. This person is continually prayed for. For more information see the brochure on Prayer Shawls at the entrance of the church or phone Linda **780 988-9229**. All levels of knitters are welcome and there are needles, yarn and usually someone present to help get you started. No registration is necessary just drop in and join in the knitting, sharing and praying.

Register now for the **Catholic Girls' League** - this is a youth group for girls ages 10-15 which meets twice each month on Saturday afternoons in the Youth Room. The first meeting is on September 23rd from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. We do a variety of activities - games, crafts, volunteer work, spiritual development which provide fun, friendship and faith development in a Catholic setting. There is no registration fee. To register, send your contact information and age to **stmorcgl@gmail.com** or phone Jean at **780 435-1861**.

Eucharistic Study Group: The first meeting of the current season (2017-2018) will be held on Friday, September 22, 2017, after the 9 am Mass in the Library of the Church. Prior to the Mass there will be the usual recitation of the Rosary and the Divine Chaplet. Coffee and breakfast goodies will be served before the meeting.

We will resume our reading and study of the current book, *The Blessed Eucharist, Our Greatest Treasure*, (p.74) as well as one page of Father Tony's booklet. Everyone is welcome. For further information, please contact Marcella at **780 430 6283**. We hope to see you there.

The next regular meeting will be held on the First Friday of October, that is October 6, 2017.

Lighting Update: The electricians and the big lift is back in the Church Nave this week. The Daily Mass will be held in the hall for this week too. Thank you everyone for your patience.

Children's Liturgy: Would you like to assist with Children's Liturgy this year? We need leaders for Saturday at 5pm, Sunday at 8:30am, 10:00am and 12:00pm. You will always be paired up with another person to lead the children.

Lesson plans and activities are provided. The children in our parish look forward to Children's Liturgy, so we need volunteers to help out. Please email Cheryl at **shinkarukc@shaw.ca** to volunteer.

Grief Support

I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow (Jeremiah 31:13).

At St. Thomas More we are piloting a new 10 week program in the Archdiocese of Edmonton that has been adapted from a successful existing program in the Archdiocese of Hamilton for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. The format is a special weekly seminar/support group for those who are trying to cope with the troubling effects of grief. In this faith-based program you can be with people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. You will learn valuable information that will help you through this difficult time in your life. We are commencing the meetings here at St. Thomas More Parish on Monday, September 11 at 7:00 P.M in the Library Room. If you cannot make the first session of the 10 week program you may join when you feel ready but we encourage you to come out for the first session. Please contact Deacon Randy or Roseanne Abele at **(780) 435-5070** or **(780) 493-1972** or by email: **rabele@telus.net** for more information or to register.