

Mass Offerings

Tues. Jan 09 7:00 pm + Rev. Fr. Thomas Plathottam
Mike Payne
+ Philip Drapeau

Wed. Jan 10 9:00 am + Ho Tong Khong
Dianne Dunnigan
+ John Keith Hannan

Thurs. Jan 11 9:00 am Thanksgiving
+ Korey McDonald

Fri. Jan 12 9:00 am Jeff Wiltzen
Gertie Rozen

Sat. Jan 13 9:00am + Larry Mahabir
+ Joseph DecoLam

5pm + Sylvia Wenzel
+ Justin Roque

Sun. Jan 14 8:30am + Peter Hoang

10:00am + Dorothy Engel
+ Catharina Weyenberg

12:00pm All Parishioners
6:00pm Wai Leung

Calendar

Tues Jan 09
Mass
7 pm
Adoration &
Reconciliation
6:00 pm

Wed Jan 10
Mass
9 am

Reconciliation
8:30 am

Thurs Jan 11
Mass
9 am

Reconciliation
8:30 am

Friday Jan 12
Mass 9:00 am

Reconciliation
8:30 am

Sat Jan 13
Mass
9 am & 5pm

Reconciliation
8:30 am & 4pm

Sun Jan 14
Masses
8:30 am
10 am
12pm
6pm

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 regularly.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul: Our Conference received 313 requests for assistance during 2017. This was fewer than 2016 but about the same as 2015. Clearly there are many struggling individuals and families whose lives are made somewhat better by your generosity and love. The SSVP distribution center, located downtown, receives donations including linen products and provides them to people throughout the City. One of their greatest needs at this time is pillows. Please help, if you can, by donating new or gently used (must be clean) pillows. Next Sunday the SSVP truck will be in the parking lot to accept donations. We do this work on behalf of parishioners, in the name of Christ who loved the poor. 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**, if you want to get involved with the Divine Mercy Conference please come to our meeting, normally held on the first Tuesday of the month following the 7pm Mass.

The Light of Christ Drama & Dance Ministry are seeking dancers and actors age 8 and up. Friday practices for the "Beauty of Conversion" begin in January. If you are interested in helping the ministry, please email **god-is-love-trust-him@outlook.com**. If you do not get a response within 3 days please call Renata at **780 438 0516** to make sure the email went through.

Missals for 2018 are available at the Church office for \$6 for an adult Missal and \$11 for a children's Missal.



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

January 7, 2018
Epiphany of the Lord

Clergy:

Parochial Administrator:
Fr. Sagayaraj Devadoss, sdb
Assoc. Pastor: Fr. Samson D. Antony, sdb
Permanent Deacon: Deacon Randy Abele

Pastoral Ministries:

Family Co-ord. Monica Bober ext. 227
family@stmparish.com
Youth Co-ord. Sara Dmitri ext. 228
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. 233
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
Evening Receptionist Gideon Boyle ext. 228
Weekend Receptionist Joey Kolinsky ext. 228

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

stm.secretary@stmparish.com

Deadline: Tuesday noon

*Just a kind reminder not to leave any
valuables in the pew unattended.*

For December 24 - 31

Regular Sunday Collection
\$51,390.00

Christmas
\$36,000.00

TWS (Together We Serve)
\$2000.00

Epiphany: the Feast of our coming to Faith in Christ

My Dear People,

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany which is the oldest feast in the Church after Easter and Pentecost. It has been celebrated long before Christmas was, or rather, it took the place of Christmas for many years, since the birth of Jesus was one among the various events remembered on this day by the early Church.

As we know the Greek word "Epiphany" means "manifestation" - the clear appearing of something or of one, unknown to us before. In our case *the unknown one* whose appearance we celebrate is Jesus Christ. Therefore, the *purpose of the Feast of the Epiphany* is as follows:

to praise God because Christ has made himself known to us human beings for what he really is: the Son of God and our Saviour.

On this great day, Christians of the early Church remembered & celebrated ***several manifestations of Jesus:***

- his appearing on earth when he was born at Bethlehem.
- his making himself known to the wise men.
- his being made known to the crowd by God the Father when he was baptised by John at the river Jordan.
- the manifestation of his power to the Apostles when he changed water into wine at a marriage feast in Cana.

Through all these events, Jesus made it clear to those who witnessed them that **he was the messiah announced by the prophets.**

When the Feast of Christians began being celebrated on a separate date, December 25, the main event left to be commemorated on the Feast of the Epiphany was the manifestation of Jesus to the wise men. It was an event which Christians of the early Church celebrated with great enthusiasm. Clearly, there was a good reason for it: the wise men were the first non-Jews who believed in Christ, and early Christians, most of whom had been "Pagans" before, saw in the three wise men three of their own people. They praised God for having called not only Jews, but "heathens" as well, to the faith.

As one can understand, most of us too are non-Jews. Whether we were born of Christian parents and baptised soon after we were born, or received Baptism later in life, all of us have good reasons **to rejoice** on this feast and **to praise Christ for having made himself known to us, for having called us to the Faith.**

Therefore, the **Feast of the Epiphany** can be rightly called the **Feast of our coming to faith in Christ.** Let us thank the Lord for this great and precious gift: **Faith.**

Fr. Sagayaraj Devadoss, SDB
Parochial Administrator

Sacraments, Ministries & Other



First Holy Communion: The First Reconciliation/First Holy Communion sacrament program begins when the children are in grade 2. The next registration is Saturday, February 3rd, 2018 from 9am to 11am. Brochures are available at your Catholic school or in our Parish, on our brochure stand. Space is limited. Please register early to ensure the dates you want are available.

Marriage Preparation: The next Marriage Preparation program at St. Thomas More will take place on March 16, 17 and 18, 2018. For information and to register, email stm.marriagepreparation@gmail.com, please indicate your name, wedding date and location when emailing for information. Other Marriage Preparation programs available are:



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

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

Baptism For children (Infants to 7 years) The last opportunity to baptize, until after Easter are February 10 or 11 please call Diane at 780 434 6313 ext. 233 for **Baptism Preparation:** January 8 & 15, 2018, two consecutive Monday evenings, from 7 to 9pm. These preparation classes are for parents & godparents and may be taken before the arrival or registration of the child to be baptized. Please register by January 6th or drop-in to the first class on January 8th.



Baptism Registration/Office Visit: Monday, January 29, day & evening appointments are available approximately 45 minutes in duration. Please refer to the brochure on the stand by the main doors or on our parish website (Ministries link) for process, requirements and other upcoming dates. Also note that baptisms are not offered during Lent, which begins on February 14 (Ash Wednesday).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC 2156 states that we are to baptize our children as soon after birth, as possible (not waiting until the first birthday) and we are to give our children names of Christian sentiment. Godparents assist the parents in passing on the Catholic faith to the child but it is not necessary that they be relatives. If you are having difficulty finding a suitable godparent for your child please contact Diane. *Baby on the Way? Maybe you didn't know but . . .*

- the Second Commandment;
- I. The Name of the Lord is Holy - *prescribes respect for the Lord's name CCC* 2142*
 - II. Taking the Name of the Lord in Vain – *forbids false oaths CCC* 2150*
 - III. **The Christian Name CCC* 2156** *The sacrament of Baptism is conferred “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In Baptism, the Lord's name sanctifies man, and the Christian receives his name in the Church. This can be the name of a saint, that is, of a disciple who has lived a life of exemplary fidelity to the Lord. The patron saint provides a model of charity; we are assured of his intercession. The “baptismal name” can also express a Christian mystery or Christian virtue.*

“Parents, sponsors, and the Pastor are to see that a name is not given which is foreign to Christian sentiment.”

*CCC Catechism of the Catholic Church—read it—it's awesome! So is *YOUCAT* and *Catholicism for Dummies!*

STM Scripture Study: A Scripture Study will begin with an information night on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 after the 7pm Mass at 7:40pm here at the church in the Library room. At that time, the study booklets will be distributed. The cost is \$12 for materials. The study is called “The Mass in Scripture”. The study explores the biblical roots of the Mass in each of its parts. This study is ideal for seasoned Catholics who desire a deeper understanding of the biblical roots of the Mass, and may also be helpful for inquirers who are searching for the biblical foundation of Catholic worship. We will meet for the following 10 weeks. Come for fellowship and to learn, pray, and share your faith. 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**.

Ministries, Sacraments and Parish News

Coffee, Kids, and Catholic Moms: We are building a community of Catholic moms at St. Thomas More Parish. Join us in the parish hall from 9:30 am to 11:30 am on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Relax, sit back, and enjoy some coffee and faith-filled conversation with other moms from our parish while we watch our kids play. Don't worry if you need to show up late or leave early – we're moms, we get it! In January, we will be meeting on the 10th and the 24th. For more information, email us at coffeekidsandcatholicmoms@gmail.com, or just drop in. We'd love to have you!

Knights of Columbus Fr. Bonner Council is hosting the 2018 Family Pasta Dinner and Dance at the St. Thomas



More Parish hall on Saturday, February 10, following the 5pm Mass. This annual event features a delicious pasta dinner, a piñata, and live music by Barry and the Decades. Tickets for the event are available for sale before/after Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses on the first week end of January 2018 at the entrance of the church. Tickets are \$15 for adults and youth 13+, \$10 for children ages 5 to 12, and free for children under 5

years old. You can also purchase tickets for a full table of eight for the discounted price of \$80. Ticket sales go fast, so please reserve your tickets and tables before the event sells out.

Thank you and God bless.



Since 1984, **Development and Peace/Caritas Canada** has benefitted from the collection and sale of stamps affixed on envelopes. Since 1992, sales have been recorded and \$500,000 has been raised. We encourage everyone to be mindful of their letters received and to set aside envelopes on which stamps are affixed. Please drop these envelopes in the box at the entrance of the church which will be passed onto Development and Peace/Caritas Canada. Thank you for participating in this most worthwhile initiative. Any questions? please contact Elaine Smith **780 436 8324**.

St. Thomas More Refugee Initiative: We are pleased to report that one of our sponsored families has now received final government approval, and will arrive in Edmonton on February 6. This family of six is from Iraq, and includes a couple with their three sons, aged 13, 12, and 7, as well as one grandmother.

As we prepare for their arrival, we are asking for your assistance in donating gently used household items if possible. We require specifically the following:

- furniture and lamps;
- kitchenware, including small appliances;
- bedding and towels.

If you can help with this, please contact Real Demers at **780 438 5498**. Our parish has been tremendously successful in this initiative over the past three years, and with your generous support we're blessed to be able to continue helping. Thank you again.

Church building and office closure in January: The church will be closed on Monday, January 8, from 12pm to 3pm for an off site, staff Christmas/Epiphany function. Thank you and wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Our **St. Thomas More Social Justice ministry** has been preparing lunches for the Inner City Pastoral Ministry at the Bissell Centre yearly, for 20 years. We give thanks to this ministry who once again prepared, delivered and served a luncheon to 230 recipients on December 10th, 2017. We also thank the many parents from St. Mary's and St. Stanislaus schools who helped and supported this event.