



ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

5340 4 St. SW Calgary AB T2V 0Z5 **403-252-1137** fax 403-255-7796

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Facebook: St. Anthony's Catholic Parish

The Nativity of our Lord

December 25, 2020



A Blessed Christmas to All

Weekend Schedule

| | | |
|----------|--------------|----------|
| Saturday | Confessions | 4:00 pm |
| | English Mass | 5:00 pm |
| Sunday | Confessions | 6:45 am |
| | Latin Mass | 7:15 am |
| | English Mass | 9:00 am |
| | English Mass | 10:30 am |
| | Confessions | Noon |
| | Latin Mass | 12:30 pm |
| | Latin Mass | 2:30 pm |
| | English Mass | 5:00 pm |

Weekday Schedule

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|----------|
| Monday | Confessions | 6:30 am |
| | Latin Mass | 7:00 am |
| | Confessions | 8:30 am |
| | English Mass | 9:00 am |
| Tuesday | Confessions | 6:30 am |
| | Latin Mass | 7:00 am |
| | Confessions | 8:30 am |
| | English Mass | 9:00 am |
| Wednesday | Confession | 11:30 am |
| | Latin Mass | Noon |
| | Confession | 6:30 pm |
| | English Mass | 7:00 pm |
| Thursday | Confessions | 8:30 am |
| | English Mass | 9:00 am |
| | Confession | 11:30 am |
| | Latin Mass | Noon |
| Solemnity | Mary Mother of God | |
| | English Mass | 5:00 pm |
| Friday | Latin Mass | 7:15 am |
| | English Mass | 9:00 am |
| | English Mass | 10:30 am |
| | Latin Mass | 12:30 pm |
| Saturday | Confessions | 8:00 am |
| | Latin Mass | 9:00 am |

Pastor Fr. Edmund Vargas ext 224 or **587-349-9615**
Associate Pastor Fr. John Shannon, FSSP ext 226 or 403-714-7361
In Residence Fr. John Petravicius, Fr. Anthony Pudota
Deacon Ron Nowell
Bookkeeper Magda Aguillon ext 223
Janitorial Service Polmax Ecology Cleaning Ltd.

On Temporary Leave:
 John Morgan Music Director
 Heather Schilling Parish Secretary
 Dorothy Loucks Sacramental Preparation
 Maria Teresa Valez Accountant
 Dianne McKay Office Assistant

Pastoral Notes

A Blessed pandemic Christmas!

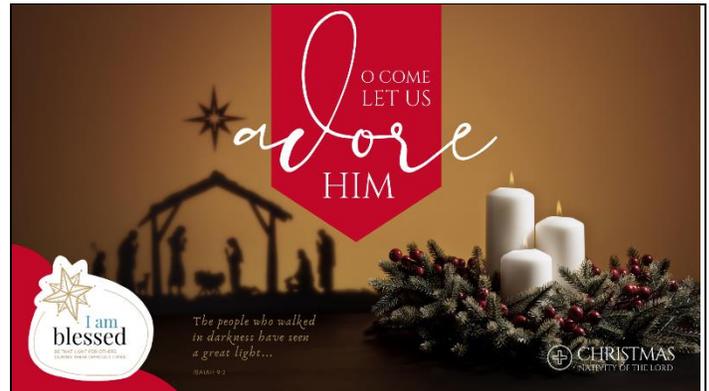
So, how do we keep Christ in a pandemic Christmas? With the original Christmas, Christ assumes our humanity to make us share in His divinity, making us re-discover God in our human relationships, in our marriage and family and in our work. This is when we transform faith into life. We sublimate our ordinary human activities into a ministry we do for God. Thus, we encounter the divine in the human. During this pandemic, we have to emphasize this Incarnation-based theological truth. We need to recognize God's presence in others in this time of difficulty. Our human outreach is as important as our pious practices that relate more to God than others.

Our outreach program should be at the heart of our mission to encounter God in others, especially those in need. Behind the joy in giving our own share for the Christmas Hampers is the story of needy families with suffering children. As church, we have to afford to spend on God's poor, even with our current financial struggles. As in the past years, we are committed to sponsor the Feed the Hungry dinner this coming June 13.

Indeed, this Christmas is so different from previous Christmases. But this Christmas can be so like the first Christmas. The "unspeakable power of a baby born in straw poverty" (Bono of U2) should remind us of the poverty of the original Christmas. It is in poverty that God can speak to us in our emptiness and vacancy for Him. The original Christmas reminds of Christ's poverty as He empties Himself of His divinity to share in our humanity.

We usually reckon the Christmas story with the gentle scenery of the Baby Jesus in the manger with shepherds, angels and kings with exotic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh in the background. But there is the other side of the Christmas story that can relate more to us as we deal with this pandemic difficulty and challenge. Like the pangs of birth, the Christmas story was marred with bloody circumstances and a history of violent events, courageous acts, and difficult decisions. In a very real way, we can relate to our present difficulties and challenges the other side of the Christmas story as we search the light in the shadows of our dark experiences... A complete approach to the Christmas story is about appreciating more not only its gentleness, peace, and joy but also its aspects of fear, insecurity, and violence. Christ's birth into our world does not save us from the harsh, ugly, and dark realities of our life. But it equips us with the grace to face our fears and frustrations in the faith that love can overcome death.

We pray for a Blessed Christmas, a celebration that transforms our lives with God's love and presence.



CCCB Daily Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7, Psalm: 96

Second Reading: Titus 2.11-14

Gospel: Luke 2.1-16

Fr Edmund's Updates...

Our **Christmas Hampers** has benefitted 109 adults and 70 children (74 families). Total cost is \$17,891.83. Gift cards (200X\$25) amount to \$4,865.75. Coop discount is \$410.57. Since our cut-off, we still have been receiving requests. Since additional orders cannot be accommodated by Coop until after Christmas, we are delivering more hampers to more families. We need volunteers to pack on the 28th and deliver on the 29th. If interested to volunteer, please contact Fr Edmund directly. And we are considering hamper-style deliveries in the new year, that is, a monthly delivery (last Saturday) to families or individuals by screened volunteers or those willing to be screened and trained to get this outreach program going. The support of our parishioners has been tremendous, especially in contributing to the financial requirements of this endeavor. Our volunteers have been more than willing to help. Outreach should be at the heart of our Church's mission and personal spirituality.

HEALING CORNER "While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." As we contemplate this birth of Jesus, let us not forget those who may be consumed by the trauma of abuse and homelessness at this time of year. How can we reach out to those who may need an extra hand at this moment? Can we remember to keep them in our prayers? What can we share of ourselves with those less fortunate?

Mass for Seniors

Saturday, December 26, 3pm

Mary, Holy Mother of God Masses:

December 31, 5pm, January 1, 9am & 10:30 am [register here](#)

Livestream 10:30am [available here](#)

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, Dec 27

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|-------------------|
| 7:15am Latin | SI | special intention |
| 9am English | SI | Diane Purdy |
| | RIP | Mary Olson |
| 10:30am English | SI | All Parishioners |
| 12:30 pm Latin | SI | special intention |

Monday, Dec 28

| | | |
|-------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 7am Latin | RIP | special intention |
| 9am English | RIP | Laura Schielke |
| | RIP | Agustin & Horacio Ajoste |

Tuesday, Dec 29

| | | |
|-------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| 7am Latin | SI | special intention |
| 9am English | RIP | Antony and Mary Anne Bastiampillai |

Wednesday, Dec 30

| | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------------|
| Noon Latin | SI | special intention |
| 7pm English | RIP | Elizabeth Hall |

Thursday, Dec 31

| | | |
|-------------|-----|--|
| 9am English | RIP | Mario, Pauline Amaral and Zelia, John, Joe |
| noon Latin | SI | special intention |
| 5pm English | SI | The Unemployed |

Friday, Jan 1

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-------------------|
| 9am English | RIP | Francisco Silva |
| 12:30pm Latin | SI | Special Intention |

Saturday, Jan 2

| | | |
|-------------|-----|-------------------|
| 9am Latin | SI | special intention |
| 5pm English | RIP | Laura Schielke |

LATIN MASS CALENDAR

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--|
| Sunday Dec 27 | 2 nd CL | Sunday within the Octave of the Nativity |
| Friday Jan 1 | 1 st CL | Octave of the Nativity of the Lord |
| Sunday Jan 3 | 2 nd CL | Holy Name of Jesus |

REST IN PEACE

Estreliza Viegas



Our heartfelt sympathies to their families.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK

Liberatore D'Amico, Rose Dourado, Ken Foran,
Lois Goodfellow, Faye LaPaz, Johnson Mont,
Leanne Morgan, Charlene Munn, and Corazon Reyes

May the Lord grant them healing, comfort, and peace.

DONATIONS IN DECEMBER

| | BUDGET | COLLECTION | DIFFERENCE |
|-----|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| MTD | \$32,815 | \$14,879.42 | (\$17,935.58) |
| YTD | \$344,644 | \$350,865.71 | \$6,221.71 |

| | GOAL | COLLECTION | DIFFERENCE |
|-------------------|----------|-------------|---------------|
| Christmas Hampers | \$20,000 | \$12,080.00 | (\$7,920.00) |
| TIA 2020 | \$41,030 | \$20,320.45 | (\$20,709.55) |

Mass Matters.

In addition to our **regular Sunday 10:30am Mass**, our **Mass New Year's Day, 10:30am** will be **livestreamed** ([available here](#)). Please note that our **TELUS livestreams have moved to Channel 877**.

All our weekend Masses will now require [online registration](#). You may also request registration by email, text or phone or written note. Please note that **we have added a Sunday 5pm Mass**.

Walk-in still allowed for the weekday Masses. **Volunteers** are asked to [sign up here](#).

There is a **monthly Seniors Mass for Healing on Saturday, December 26, 3pm** and the next fourth (4th) Saturdays of the month.

Starting January 2, we will have a Tagalog Mass every Saturday at 6:30pm.

Adoration will resume on Thursday, January 7.

Sincere Appreciation is hereby expressed for your continuing support for our Church through your contributions online, in-person and by mail. Please consider St Anthony's Church in your year-end giving. Please be assured that our pastoral team will minister to your pastoral and spiritual needs in the best and safest possible way. As we move into the new year, we hope and pray for health, healing, and holiness for all.



YOUR WEEKLY OFFERING

Our parish relies on your regular offertory giving for maintenance and growth. We offer many convenient ways for you to make your contributions including signing into your own banking institution and e-

transfer the amount to: isupport@stanthonysycc.ca. To donate by credit card, or register for pre-authorized debit withdrawal visit stanthonysycc.ca/donation. You may also mail your cheques to St. Anthony's Church 5340 4 St. SW Calgary, AB T2V 0Z5, or drop off your donation envelopes into our donation box in the church when you come to Mass. You are providing crucial support to care for your parish during this difficult time. Thank you for your generosity.

Year-End Giving

In order to receive 2020 tax receipts for donations for all parishes, Catholic Pastoral Centre or its ministries, they must be received in the Parishes or the Diocese by Dec. 31, 2020 at midnight (cash, credit card or online) OR post marked by December 31 (cheques). Thank you for your generosity.



WILLIAM T. MCGRATTAN

BISHOP of CALGARY

December 25, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...” (Is 9:2)

Christmas: A Light of Faith, Hope, and Love in our World

This Christmas Eve we will hear the words of the prophet Isaiah ring out “the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light”. How does one begin to describe the experiences of this past year? It is as if a shadow has been cast over our lives by a “pandemic of darkness”. Many here and across the globe have lost their lives to COVID-19 with their families left to mourn their passing, many have survived the virus with lasting effects, and others have risked their lives to provide medical care and to conduct the scientific research leading to a vaccine. It has left many marked by profound sadness, isolation, and fear.

There is also some understandable impatience with the health precautions and restrictions that place limits on our normal ordinary human interactions such as work, social activities, family interactions, and religious gatherings. Yes, we all have had to make sacrifices.

It is into this world, here and now, that God’s love is being revealed. It is a light that comes to us in darkness.

The Nativity of Christ which we celebrate at Christmas is not merely a recollection of an historical event or of a birth which took place in the past. It fixes our gaze on the future, on his second coming at the end of the ages while acknowledging His presence here and now in our lives, each and every day. With the challenges that we have faced this year we might be tempted to give up, to not see Christmas and its celebration through this light of faith, hope and love.

A prayer to the Immaculate Conception beautifully captures the action of God and the docility of our Blessed Mother, “Father, the image of the Virgin is found in the Church. Mary had a faith that your Spirit prepared and a love that never knew sin, for you kept her sinless from the first moment of her conception. Trace in our actions the lines of her love, in our heart her readiness of faith”. God has traced the lines of Mary’s readiness of faith and love through our lives during this Advent season in the acts of love and sacrifice which each of us have freely accepted for the good and the wellbeing of others. They have probably gone unnoticed in the eyes of the world, much like Mary’s “fiat”, which was a simple response of yes to accepting the will of God. In our Catholic tradition, Mary has always been a type or model of the Church’s response to the will of God. As Mary came to believe, to

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY

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conceive and to give birth to Jesus, the Son of God, this same action of God tracing His grace and love in our lives can come to birth this Christmas with a renewed sense of hope.

As St. Ambrose said, “You also are blessed because you have heard and believed. A soul that believes both conceives and brings forth the Word of God and acknowledges his works. Let Mary’s soul be in each of you to proclaim the greatness of God” (Office of Readings, Monday of the 4th Week of Advent). This year as we approach the celebration of Christmas, the *I Am Blessed* campaign of the Diocese is once again an opportunity to witness to our faith despite the suffering we may be experiencing, to recognize the blessings from God in the midst of our daily reality, and to seek out opportunities to be a blessing for others through prayer, giving, and in our acts of service for others.

As we prepare for Christmas, and the octave of this feast, let us rediscover how connected we are to one another. I invite us to experience in this coming year the hope that is found in the promises of God as did Mary. In the words of Pope Francis, Christmas is the feast that “returns us to the horizon of hope, a horizon that does not disappoint because it is founded on the Word of God” (Angelus, 1st Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2013). The incarnate Word, the nearness of God which we celebrate on the Solemnity of the Nativity of Jesus, has transformed human history and can restore in each of us this profound gift of hope.

In this time of pandemic when we look for that light in our darkness, I offer my Christmas greetings and heartfelt best wishes to all the faithful of the Diocese.

I express my gratitude and esteem for the witness of pastoral charity exhibited by the priests and the deacons who exercise the role of Christ the Servant, the presence of the religious communities that offer their unique charisms and a witness to holiness, the co-responsibility of the lay faithful - including the volunteers and parish staff - as a living sign of Christ in the world, the role of the teachers and catechists in our schools and parishes, and the essential gift of family life that is shared so readily in an expression of sacrificial love and an openness to new life. Finally, to those who have both in the past and now serve at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, I am grateful for the dedication and cooperation that is expressed in our desire to be of service to the parishes of the Diocese in these challenging times. May God bestow his blessings upon all of us as we look forward in faith, hope and love to the coming year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



+William T. McGrattan