

### **THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH:**

Sunday,	Dec. 18	Multicultural Choir 2:30-3:30pm
Monday,	Dec. 19	Choir @ 7:00pm
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>Dec. 21</b>	<b>7:00pm Parish Advent Reconciliation</b>
Wednesday,	Dec. 21	Choir @ 7:00pm (Large Hall Boardroom)
Thursday,	Dec. 22	1:30pm Monterey Seniors Mass
Friday,	Dec. 23	Church Cleaning @ 7:00pm Team 7

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS FOR CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S:** Please note the office will be closed from December 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> - open the 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 3:30pm and closed December 31<sup>st</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup> and back on January 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00am to 3:30pm.

**MULTI-CULTURAL MASS:** We are still in need of Children to sign up to be Flag Bearers for the 8:00pm Christmas Eve Mass. Please see the sign up sheet in the foyer.

#### **Fourth Sunday of Advent Stewardship Reflection**

*Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son. (Isaiah 7.14)*

Are you searching for a sign? Do you long for direction, for meaning, for love? Search no longer. God is with us: Immanuel.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS:** Our next preparation class for infant Baptism will be on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00am. Please call the Parish Office to make an appointment to see one of the Parish Priests and to register for this next class.

#### **CWL CHRISTMAS BASKET RAFFLE – LAST WEEKEND**

The CWL will be in the foyer this last weekend selling tickets on a Christmas basket. Tickets are \$1.00 each. The basket is loaded with lots of goodies and wine. Hurry and get your tickets before they are sold out.

**MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** – If you are interested in helping us with donations toward Christmas flowers, please put your donation in the special Christmas Flower Envelopes located in the foyer. The envelopes can be placed in the collection basket any Sunday during the Advent season. If you would like to make your donation in memory of a deceased relative or friend, please write the name(s) on the envelope, and they will be remembered in a special Memorial Mass on December 25<sup>th</sup>, at the 10:30am Mass. The names of the deceased will also be posted on the bulletin board in the foyer. Thank you.

**WELCOME TO OUR FAITH FAMILY:** Congratulations to Ryan Cawaling, Bethany Gordon, Stephanie Quintero De Paz, Oaklyn Juurlink, Oliver Sawyer, James Ordinario and Osasere Omere-Aiyo who were baptized in our parish the past 2 weekends.

**MISSALS FOR 2012:** There are still missals available in the foyer @ \$4.00 each.

**SUNDAY COLLECTION:** this week's collection was \$6,976.14.

**TIA:** We have collected to date \$34,857.56. Our target for 2011 is \$42,124.00.

**MISSION MEXICO:** collected to date \$1,257.63.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

1. Memorial Mass @ St. Thomas More for Rev. John Murphy, CSB on Friday, January 13, 2012 @ 7:00pm with Rev. Robert Kasun, CSB presiding.
2. Dogmatic Theology DVD Presentation (by Rev. James Mallon of the Diocese of Halifax, Nova Scotia), on Thursday's starting on Thursday, January 19, 2012 to Thursday, March 8, 2012 @ 7:15pm.
3. Charismatic Lenten Retreat with Mr. Aneel Aranha from Dubai on March 22, 23 & 24, 2012, more info to come.
4. Stewardship Retreat with Fr. Andrew & Team from Denver, Colorado on May 25, 26 & 27, 2012, more info to come.

**MEMBERS OF LITURGY MINISTRIES:** Please check the Sacristy Bulletin Board to sign up for the Christmas Masses.

#### **WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday	Dec. 17	9:00am	+Rev. John Murphy, CSB
Saturday	Dec. 17	5:30pm	+Delores & Benjamin Chantiaco
Sunday	Dec. 18	9:30am	For the People
Sunday	Dec. 18	11:30am	Intentions for Saibeen Padmaraj
Sunday	Dec. 18	5:00pm	+Laura Tabot
Monday	Dec. 19	9:00am	Thanksgiving Mass
Tuesday	Dec. 20	7:00pm	Thanksgiving Winifrey Valencia
Wednesday	Dec. 21	9:00am	+Hermine Gildo
Thursday	Dec. 22	9:00am	+Jesus Monroy Jr.
Thursday	Dec. 22	6:45pm	Mark & Jonathan Enojo Thanksgiving
Friday	Dec. 23	9:00am	+Paulina & George Bryce & Theodora & Albert Davis

#### **RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS) INQUIRY PROGRAM:**

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Catholic or in receiving sacraments missed as a child (Holy Eucharist and Confirmation), please contact the parish office at 403-285-3773 for more information or to register for the program. The next Inquiry Program will begin on Wednesday, February 1, 2012.

**PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> @ 7:00PM**

## Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary

Announcements from the Catholic Pastoral Centre for  
December 18th 2011, Fourth Sunday of Advent.

### Youth Office

2012 ONE ROCK Tickets can be purchased on line at [www.onerock.ca](http://www.onerock.ca). These make a wonderful Christmas present/stocking stuffer for next year's event to be held August 17 & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012. You can also book your campsite early through the website.

### Office of Liturgy

#### Advent Reconciliation

Advent is a season filled with a spirit of hope and expectation, of excitement and increasing joy. It's the time to reflect on the mighty deeds of God in salvation history, the ongoing presence of Christ in the Church today, the human longing for the fullness yet to come, and the Church's mission to hasten the Lord's coming through deeds of holiness and justice. This is also a season that highlights the urgency of the Lord's call to repentance and our need to embrace the good news by the way we live. If you are called to the sacrament of reconciliation, list of Advent Reconciliation in parishes in the Diocese of Calgary is available on our website, at <http://www.calgarydiocese.ca>

### Social Justice Office

Chalice - A Catholic Child Sponsorship Program with a mission to share Christ with those in need. During this Advent Season, consider making a difference in the life of a child by choosing to become a sponsor. Chalice is rooted in Catholic Social Teaching and looks to affirm the dignity of every child. Currently, Chalice has 45,000 sponsored children in 15 countries. For more information, please call Chalice at 1-800-776-6855 or visit their website at [www.chalice.ca](http://www.chalice.ca).

The Human Experience film – This Grassroots documentary that speaks to issues of homelessness and the dignity of the human person is now available in our Pastoral Library. Also, if your parish or parish group is interested in a showing of the film at your church, please contact Jana Drapal at 403-218-5519 at the Social Justice Office or e-mail [socialjustice@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:socialjustice@calgarydiocese.ca).

Development and Peace Fall Campaign Action Cards - All involved in this year's CCODP campaign to Help to Cool the Earth are encouraged to send in their signed Fall Action Cards to Social Justice Office, Pastoral Centre, 120-17<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.W., Calgary, AB, T2S, 2T2. Signed cards demonstrate our solidarity with small-scale farmers in the Global South who request the promotion of agricultural models that allow them to feed their families and seek sustainable solutions to Climate Change. Action cards will be collectively sent to the CCODP office and signatures will be collected and counted; The message will be displayed on large banners and sent to our CCODP partners, who can use them to increase the impact of their advocacy work with their government, and at public events, such as the 2012 Rio + 20 conference ([www.earthsummit2012.org](http://www.earthsummit2012.org)).

### Life and Family Resource Centre (LFRC)

Transitions – a 15-week program for those newly separated/divorced. New program will start on Monday, January 23, 2012. For more information or registration call 403-218-5504.

Effective Co-Parenting: Putting Kids First will be offered on Tuesdays evenings from 7:00-9:00 pm. on the following dates: Feb 7, 14, 21, 28, and March 6. This program provides tools to create effective communication skills for parents who are separated or divorced. It is recommended that parents do not enroll in the same course. For more information please call 403-218-5504.

Project Rachel offers a journey of healing and reconciliation for people suffering distress from a past abortion experience. Two options are available: individual counseling or a small group retreat. For more information call Project Rachel at 218-5506 or toll-free 1-877-597-3223.

YOU CAN HELP MARRIAGES and FAMILIES STAY TOGETHER! Retrouvaille means 'rediscover' first love, and discover there are practical tools every couple can learn to bring intimate communication to their relationship. The next Program begins February 17-19, 2012. Pick up a brochure at the back of the church and bring new hope to a family. To read what many

Calgary couples experienced email: [coordinator@helpourmarriagecalgary.com](mailto:coordinator@helpourmarriagecalgary.com) or call 403-218-5504(daytime) or 403-616-4976(evenings). Also check the web: [www.helpourmarriage.com](http://www.helpourmarriage.com)

The next Calgary Catholic Medical Association committee meeting will take place on Saturday, January 14, 2012, 9:45 am at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Please indicate your participation by contacting the Life & Family Resource Centre by phone or e-mail.

The Marriage Preparation program "For Better and For Ever", has been adapted for couples in one or more of the following circumstances: living together, previously married, beginning marriage with children, couples 45+, or those who wish to have their marriage blessed in the Church. For information and/or to register call the Life and Family Resource Centre at 403-218-5504 email [lifeandfamily@calgarydiocese.ca](mailto:lifeandfamily@calgarydiocese.ca)

For Life & Family ministries, programs and events please visit our website at [www.calgarydiocese.ca](http://www.calgarydiocese.ca), or call 403-218-5504 for more information.

**FIRST EUCHARIST (COMMUNION) REGISTRATION – Registration forms will be made available at the Sacramental Bulletin Board in the church foyer from January 7, 2012 until January 22, 2012. The Sacrament of First Eucharist will be celebrated on May 5, 2012 at 5:30pm and May 6, 2012 at 9:30am and 11:30am.**

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2012 – PLEASE NOTE THE BOXES WILL BE REMOVED FOR OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES AND RETURNED TO THE FOYER ON DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>.** These boxes are available in the foyer this weekend for pick up, as usual, in alphabetical order. **Please note that your envelope number may have changed from 2011.** Please note you are not guaranteed the same envelope number year after year, but you will still receive a tax receipt. For parishioners (newly arrived after November 18 and those who have never used envelopes before) who are interested in using 2011 offertory envelopes, please call the parish office to obtain a box of 2012 offertory envelopes. **PLEASE DO NOT USE THESE NEW BOXES UNTIL THE YEAR 2012 AND DO NOT USE YOUR 2011 ENVELOPES IN 2012 OTHERWISE YOUR DONATION WILL GO TO SOMEONE ELSE. THANK YOU.**

### **POPE BENEDICT XVI : THREE CHRISTMAS TREE WISHES**

"Before lighting the tree", Pope said, "I would like to express three wishes. This Christmas tree is formed on the slopes of Mt. Ingino at whose summit is found the basilica of Gubbio's patron saint, St. Ubaldo. When we look at it our eyes are lifted up, raised toward the sky, toward the world of God". "My first wish, therefore, is that our gaze, that of our minds and our hearts, not rest only on the horizon of this world, on its material things, but that it in some way, like this tree that tends upward, be directed toward God. God never forgets us but He also asks that we don't forget Him". "The Gospel recounts that, on the holy night of Christ's birth, a light enveloped the shepherds, announcing a great joy to them: the birth of Jesus, the one who brings us light, or better, the One who is the true light that illuminates all. The great tree that I will light up shortly overlooks the city of Gubbio and will illuminate the darkness of the night with its light".

"My second wish is that we recall that we also need a light to illumine the path of our lives and to give us hope, especially in this time in which we feel so greatly the weight of difficulties, of problems, of suffering, and it seems that we are enshrouded in a veil of darkness. But what light can truly illuminate our hearts and give us a firm and sure hope? It is the Child whom we contemplate on Christmas, in a poor and humble manger, because He is the Lord who draws near to each of us and asks that we receive Him anew in our lives, asks us to want Him, to trust in Him, to feel His presence, that He is accompanying us, sustaining us, and helping us". "But this great tree is formed of many lights.

My final wish is that each of us contribute something of that light to the spheres in which we live: our families, our jobs, our neighbourhoods, towns, and cities. That each of us be a light for those who are at our sides; that we leave aside the selfishness that, so often, closes our hearts and leads us to think only of ourselves; that we may pay greater attention to others, that we may love them more. Any small gesture of goodness is like one of the lights of this great tree: together with other lights it illuminates the darkness of the night, even of the darkest night".BXVI/VIS/20111207 (490)

### **CHRIST, THE COVENANT OF GOD**

Therefore, four Catholic covenants were given to mankind. The first, Noah's was that of the rainbow after the flood; the second, Abraham's being that of the circumcision. Then third was the giving of the law in the time of Moses; and the fourth is that of the gospel given through our Lord Jesus Christ. (*St. Irenaeus*)

# St. Thomas More Parish

15 Templebow Road NE, Calgary, AB T1Y 6J3

E-mail: [st.thomas.more@shaw.ca](mailto:st.thomas.more@shaw.ca)

Office Hours: Mondays 9:00am-12:00pm & Tuesdays – Fridays 9:00am-3:30pm

A Collaborative Ministry of the Carmelite Fathers and Lay Parishioners

Phone: (403) 285-3773 Fax: (403) 293-8754

Website: [www.stthomasmore.ca](http://www.stthomasmore.ca)

## DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> /18<sup>TH</sup>, 2011 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**PASTOR:** Fr. John Alex Pinto, OCD

**PERMANENT DEACON :** Deacon Norman Dumais

**CARETAKING:** Parish Volunteer Teams

**HOSPITALITY:** Everyone in the Parish!

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** Fr. Gabriel Dias, OCD

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT :** Lori Tremblay

**ACCOUNTANT:** Anna McKiernan

**WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:** Monday 9:00am;  
Tuesday 7:00pm; Thursday 6:45pm;  
Wednesday to Saturday 9:00am;

**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:**  
**SATURDAY 5:30PM YOUTH FOCUSED**  
**SUNDAY 9:30AM, 11:30AM & 5:00PM**

**ROSARY:** Sun. at 8:50am & 10:50am

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tues. 7:30-8:30pm

**RECONCILIATION:** Tues. 6:15-6:45pm;

Sat. 4:30-5:15pm

**PRAYER REQUEST LINE:** Call 285-3773 #2

**BAPTISMS:** An initial appointment with one of the priests is required before attending a session.

**CONFIRMATION:** Mandatory Orientation/Registration

is May 2012

**MORNING PRAYER:** Mon. 8:40am & Wed. to Sat. 8:40am

**PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA:** Tues at 6:45pm

**ADORATION & PRO-LIFE PRAYERS:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. 7:30-8:30pm

**INFANT JESUS NOVENA:** Thurs at 6:45pm

**CANCER MASS AT 7:00PM:** Feb. 21, 2012; May 22, 2012; Aug. 21, 2012; Nov. 20, 2012

**FIRST EUCHARIST (COMMUNION):** Registration in Jan. 7-22, 2012

**FIRST RECONCILIATION:** Registration in September 2012

**MARRIAGES:** Minimum of 6 months notice, if there has been no previous marriages.

### CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

#### **Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve**

5:00pm Christmas Pageant followed by Mass for the Children

8:00pm Multicultural/Multilingual Mass

12:00 Midnight – Midnight Mass

#### **Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day Masses**

@ 10:30am & 5:00pm

#### **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – New Year**

Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> **New Year's Eve**

Mass @ 5:30pm

Thanksgiving Holy Hour 10:00pm to 11:00pm

#### **New Year's Day Masses**

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, Sunday 9:30am, 11:30am & 5:00pm

#### **Epiphany of The Lord, Solemnity**

January 7, 2012 @ 5:30pm & January 8, 2012 Masses @ 9:30am, 11:30am & 5:00pm

#### **Feast of Baptism of The Lord**

Monday, January 9, 2012 @ 9:00am Mass



**HAVE A BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON**