



St. Thomas More Parish

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners & Friends,

Unto us a child is born who is the saviour of the world, Alleluia. Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We are reminded that Jesus was born as a child in Bethlehem and for us that is a significant event in the history of all Christians. When we celebrate the birth of Jesus as a child, we are reminded of the fragile nature of human kind. We remember this helpless little child who depended on his parents for food, shelter, clothing and of course, nurturing and love. We see this in our own children and how dependant they are of us. We are able to relate to Jesus, the child and his birth, because he is one of us. Imagine it, God is one of us. We celebrate this event once a year, the birth of this child we call our Lord and Saviour. The rest of the year we celebrate the birth of Jesus in our hearts. This is a daily event throughout the year. Every time we help our neighbour or pray to our Father, every time we recognize our sinfulness and take steps to correct the wrongs we have done and every time we ask God for help, we allow Jesus to be born anew into our hearts. Christmas day we celebrate the birth of Jesus as a child once a year, but the birth of Jesus in our hearts is an every day occurrence.

We thank all our parishioners for your involvement in various ministries of the parish. May He bless you and keep you in His love this Christmas and always.

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas

Fr. John Alex Pinto, OCD (Pastor)
Fr. Gabriel Dias, OCD (Associate Pastor)
Rev. Mr. Norman Dumais (Deacon)
Mrs. Lori Tremblay (Administrative Assistant)



NEW YEAR SCHEDULE:

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – New Year

Saturday, December 31st **New Year's Eve**
Mass @ 5:30pm
Thanksgiving Holy Hour 10:00pm to 11:00pm

New Year's Day Masses

January 1st, 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

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 24TH TO DECEMBER 28TH**

CWL CHRISTMAS BASKET WINNERS:

Congratulations to Rae-Anne Gorel and Genevieve Fernandes on winning the annual Christmas Baskets.

Christmas Day Scripture Reflection

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us law.
(John 1.14)*

On this day we commemorate the stewardship of God the Father in the incarnation of the Son for the salvation of the world. It is through our practice of stewardship that the Word made flesh, Jesus, continues to live among us.

SUNDAY COLLECTION: this week's collection was \$7,708.72.

TIA: We have collected to date \$38,357.56. Our target for 2011 is \$42,124.00.

SIMBANG GABI: collection \$557.00.

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH FAMILY:

Congratulations to Mikayla Bell, Caitlyn Perolina, Gage & Levi Allan who were baptized in our parish this past weekend.

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.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

1. Memorial Mass for Rev. John Murphy, CSB on Friday, Jan.13/12 @ 7:00pm with Rev. Robert Kasun, CSB presiding.
2. Dogmatic Theology DVD Presentation on Thursday's starting January 19, 2012 to Thursday, March 8, 2012 @ 7:15pm.
Please see the Sacramental Bulletin Board for more information.
3. Charismatic Lenten Retreat with Mr. Aneel Aranha from Dubai on March 22, to 24, 2012, Stewardship Retreat with Fr. Andrew & Team from Denver, Colorado on May 25, 26 & 27, 2012,

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Our next session for infant baptisms will be on Sat., Jan 7th. Please call the Parish Office to Register and to make an appointment with one of our Parish Priests if you haven't already done so.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Dec. 24 9:00am
Saturday Dec. 24 5:00pm For the People
Saturday Dec. 24 8:00pm
Saturday Dec. 24 12Midnight Intention Robert Boyce
Sunday Dec. 25 10:30am Christmas Flower List
Sunday Dec. 25 5:00pm Intention Kristopher Hodge & Megan Carroll
Monday Dec. 26 9:00am +Rev. Fr. Malvin Borj
Tuesday, Dec. 27 7:00pm Intention Saibeen Padmaraj & +MP Padmaraj
Wed. Dec. 28 9:00am +Maurico Belisario
Thursday Dec. 29 9:00am Intentions Saibeen Padmaraj
Thursday Dec. 29 6:45pm +Emil Weisbrod
Friday Dec. 30 9:00am +Catherine Adams

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.



Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary

Announcements from the Catholic Pastoral Centre for
December 25th 2011, the Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day.

Social Justice Office

Philippines Floods Appeal – The Catholic Diocese of Calgary is participating in the appeal for aid in the southern region of the Philippines by forwarding all donated funds to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. Development and Peace is currently accepting donations towards humanitarian aid in the region. Donations can be made as follows:

- directly to Development and Peace by telephone (1-888-234-8533) or online at www.devp.org
- by sending a cheque payable to your parish, earmarked “D&P - Philippines Floods”
- by sending a cheque payable to the RC Diocese of Calgary, earmarked “D&P - Philippines Floods” and sent to the Pastoral Centre at 120 17th Ave S.W., Calgary, AB T2S 2T2

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.

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, 120-17th 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).

Religious Education Office

Heads up!

Join us for the **2012 Catholic Conference: Open Wide the Doors...Welcome the New Evangelization**. To be held on **March 9-10, 2012 in Calgary, Alberta** the Catholic Conference brings together speakers from across the province exploring topics ranging from marriage, faith and culture to pastoral and palliative care and inter-church relationships. The keynote speakers at this year’s conference are Archbishop Gerard Pettipas and Steve Angrisano. For more information and to register please visit www.acsta.ab.ca.

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.

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.

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 Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the Spring program beginning with a weekend on **Feb.17-19, 2012** please call **403-218-5504** (daytime) or **403-616-4976** (evenings) email: coordinator@helpourmarriagecalgary.com or visit the web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

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

Because you believe in the sanctity of life, you should know that Calgary Pro-Life Association offers FREE programs intended to educate regarding respect for all life. Please go to www.calgaryprolife.com to print a membership and donation form today.

Social Support Group at Catholic Family Service - an ongoing social support group for men and women that focuses on bringing people together who would like to make connections to others and develop self-confidence in building relationships. New members are welcome the first Tuesday of every month. Meetings are Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., located at the Catholic Family Service office at 250-707 10 Ave SW. Fees are set on a sliding fee scale. Call 403.233.2360 to register or for more information.

For Life & Family ministries, programs and events please visit our website at www.calgarydiocese.ca, or call 403-218-5504 for more information.

Youth Office

2012 ONE ROCK Tickets can be purchased on line at www.onerock.ca The dates for One Rock are **August 17 & 18th, 2012**. You can also book your campsite early through the website.