

**St. Thomas More Parish:** 15 Templebow Road NE, Calgary AB T1Y 6J3

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

**Pastor:** pastor@stthomasmore.ca

**Associate Pastor:** associate@stthomasmore.ca

**Parish Office:** secretary@stthomasmore.ca | **Website:** www.stthomasmore.ca

**Office Hours:** Monday & Sunday - Closed  
Tuesday to Saturday - 10:00am to 3:00pm (Office is closed for Lunch from 12:30pm to 1:30pm)

*A collaborative ministry of the Carmelite Fathers and Lay Parishioners*



## 4th Sunday of Advent - Dec. 20/21, 2025

### **Pastor:**

Fr. Jerald D'Souza, OCD

### **Associate Pastor:**

Fr. Alexander Braganza, OCD

### **Permanent Deacons:**

Deacon Norman Dumais

Deacon Dale Laing

### **Office Assistant:**

Rachael Ramaswamy

### **Administrative Assistant:**

Fe Badajos

### **Bookkeeper:**

Cindy Kreutzer

### **Hospitality:**

Everyone in the Parish!

### **Weekday Mass Schedule:**

Monday to Saturday: 9:00am

### **Weekend Mass Schedule:**

Saturday: 4:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am, 10:30am,  
12:30pm & 5:00pm

### **Igbo Mass:**

First Sunday of the Month: 2:00pm

### **Adoration:**

First Friday of the month:  
9:30am to Noon

### **Reconciliation:**

Tue., Wed., Thu., & Fri.:

After the morning Mass

Saturday: 2:30pm to 3:30pm

### **Baptisms:**

An initial appointment with one of the Priests is required before attending a session.

### **Confirmation:**

On-line registration is now open at [www.stthomasmore.ca](http://www.stthomasmore.ca)

### **Society of St. Vincent De Paul:**

(403) 975-4318 (Food Hampers)

### *Christmas & New Year Mass*

#### Christmas Eve Masses

Wednesday:- 5:00pm, 7:00pm & 9:00pm

#### Christmas Day Masses

Thursday:- 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm & 5:00pm

#### New Year's Eve Mass 5:00pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 3:00pm

#### New Year's Day Masses

Thursday:- 9:00am, 11:00am & 5:00pm

Multicultural Mass—Saturday, January 3, 2026 at 5:00pm

“TODAY’S GOSPEL STORY is so familiar that it feels like a warm blanket surrounding us, comforting us, giving us a sense of peace and security. We are drawn into the unfathomable mystery of God’s astounding decision to enter our reality as one of us so that, through the Son, we might find the way to eternal life. That statement alone is enough to engage us in fruitful contemplation.

In his Gospel Matthew is inviting his Jewish readers to consider how Jesus is the fulfilment of everything they have heard from the long line of prophets in their history. He emphasizes the role of Joseph, who is of the house of David, to assure the unbroken patrilineal heritage of the Messiah, which is detailed at the beginning of chapter 1 of Matthew’s Gospel. The angel encourages Joseph to accept the responsibility of supporting Mary in bringing the Son of God into the world.

But for me the most significant detail in this beautiful story is Matthew’s quotation from Isaiah: “and they shall name him Emmanuel... ‘God is with us.’” It is utterly mind-boggling to consider that the omnipotent, eternal, omniscient God in whom we believe would deign to put aside all that to become human just so he could *be with us*. May this inspire our contemplation in the days that remain before Christmas.

*(Living with Christ: December 2025), Rev. Leonard Altilla, SJ*

### **Readings:**

**1st Reading: Isaiah 7.10-14**

**2nd Reading: Romans 1.1-7**

**Gospel: Matthew 1.18-24**

Whereas Luke’s infancy narrative features Mary, Matthew’s account of the birth of Christ features Joseph. Matthew connects Joseph the betrothed husband of Mary to the Joseph in Genesis (youngest son of Jacob, Genesis chapters 38-50) especially through the occurrence of a dream in which the angel appears. St. Joseph is also “from the line of David.” Even though Joseph does not speak, he is a righteous man, embodying all that is holy in the tradition of Israel. Joseph’s openness to God’s spirit prepared him to listen to a dream, receive a message from God, and act on it. Joseph is challenged to trust without knowing the outcome of events—that is the essence of faith.

- What themes or lessons do you draw from this Gospel account?
- Recall a time when you were challenged to trust without knowing the outcome.
- How can we be living signs of “God-with-us” in our parish community and in our world?

*(Reflection: Diocese of Saskatoon)*

**Weekly Mass Intentions: December 22 to December 28**

Dec. 22	Mon	9:00am	Fr. Alex Braganza (INT) Donna Magboo (INT) Elisa Davis (RIP)
Dec. 23	Tue	9:00am	George Julius Kolarikkal Jr. (INT) Osita Obinwanne (INT) George Julius Kolarikkal (RIP)
Dec. 24	Wed	9:00am 5:00pm 7:00pm 9:00pm	Fr. Alex Braganza (INT) Adviento family thanksgiving (INT) Fe Badajos (INT) Our Lady of Perpetual Help (INT)
Dec. 25	Thu	8:30am 10:30am 12:30pm 5:00pm	Henry Rebello (INT) Fr. Jerry D'Souza (INT) Lilian Quincina and family (INT) Fr. Alex Braganza (INT) St. Thomas More parishioners (INT)
Dec. 26	Fri	9:00am	Metuh family (INT) Tony Knittle (RIP) Lawrence Marian (RIP)
Dec. 27	Sat	9:00am 4:00pm	Mario Zamora (RIP) Ana Marie Pinto (RIP) Mary Lowrey (RIP) Eyob, Joseph & Somsom
Dec. 28	Sun	8:30am 10:30am 12:30pm 5:00pm	Querobino Fernandes (RIP) Hildebrando Raposo (RIP) Teresa T. Nguyen (RIP) Kerry Button (RIP) Aida Negusse (RIP) Greg Jessop (RIP) St. Thomas More parishioners (INT) Purificacion & M. Magpantay (RIP)

**Together In Action**

The TIA 2025 is \$49,139.00  
Collection up-to-date \$49,222.65

**Holy Land**

Egypt, Israel & Jordan

***Where History Meets the Divine***

Please join Fr. Alex Braganza on

February 28 - March 13, 2026

Tour Price CAD 6300/USD 5300

Including all flights, transportation, taxes, all meals (BLD), sightseeing as mentioned in the itinerary.

For more info: please call

Brian Andrade at 778-999-4599 and

Deon Almeida at 778-866-8118 or

info@royaleorchidtours.com

www.Royaleorchidtours.com

**Shalom World TV highlights**

**Sr. Zacharia Hryc in Calgary**

She tried to push her calling away...until peace finally came when she surrendered to God's plan. Watch Shalom World's Vocare to hear Sr. Zacharia Agnieszka Hryc share how prayer, trust, and Mary's protection shaped her journey to religious life.

We urgently need volunteers to help the Parish with snow clearance. If interested, please reach out to Fr. Jerry or Fr. Alex or the parish office.

**Saint of the Week - December 26**

**Saint Stephen**

This celebration takes back to about the 4th century. Because his name is Greek, it is assumed Stephen was a Jew of the diaspora (Jewish communities outside Israel) who had resettled in Jerusalem. Stephen is the first-named among the seven deacons chosen to minister to Greek-speaking Christians in Jerusalem at the very dawn of Christian church. He is the first recorded martyr of the New Testament.

*(Living with Christ: December 2025)*

**Screening: Triumph of the Heart**

This January, Calgarians are invited to a special community screening of *Triumph of the Heart*, a powerful film on the life and martyrdom of St. Maximilian Kolbe. The film tells the true story of the Polish priest who, while imprisoned at Auschwitz during the Second World War, offered his life in place of another condemned prisoner. It is a moving witness to faith, courage, and sacrificial love. Tickets are approximately \$7, with half of any proceeds donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. **When: Sat., Jan. 10, 2026, at 7pm | Cardel Theatre** (180 Quarry Park Blvd, Calgary). To get tickets, email [rerumnovarumpartners@gmail.com](mailto:rerumnovarumpartners@gmail.com).

**Closing of Jubilee Year of Hope**

Join the diocesan community for Mass marking the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope, celebrated by Bishop McGrattan: **Saturday, December 27 at 5pm**. All are welcome to gather in thanksgiving and prayer as we commend the fruits of this sacred year to the Lord.

**Loreto Crypt**

The Diocese of Calgary is pleased to announce the opening of the Loreto Crypt at Queen's Park Cemetery (3219 4 St NW, Calgary), a permanent, above-ground mausoleum offering a dignified resting place for babies lost through miscarriage before 20 weeks of gestation. The crypt is open to all families, Catholic and non-Catholic.

Please note office hours during the Christmas season are as follows: December 24, 2025 close at 3pm. Office opens on Dec. 30. Dec. 31 open till 3pm. Office resumes on January 3, 2026.

***Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness. No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no person free from sin, came to free us all.***

St. Leo the Great