

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

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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

A collaborative ministry of the Carmelite Fathers and Lay Parishioners



December 23/24, 2023 : Fourth Sunday of Advent

PASTOR: Fr. Jerald D'Souza, OCD	ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Fr. Alexander Braganza, OCD
PERMANENT DEACON: 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 First Friday: 9:00am Adoration: First Friday of the Month 9:30am to Noon Baptisms: An initial appointment with one of the Priests is required before attending a session.	WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE Saturday 4:00pm Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm & 5:00pm (Igbo Mass: First Sunday of the Month at 2:00pm) Anointing of the Sick: Please call the Parish Office Reconciliation: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: After the morning Mass Saturday: 3:00pm to 3:45pm Society of St. Vincent De Paul: (403) 975-4318 (Food Hampers)

Please remember St. Thomas More Parish in your Will.
For more information, please visit www.plantingafuture.ca.
There is a booklet on this website to help you with your bequest.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat., Dec. 30, 2023

Anticipated Mass is at 4:00pm

Adoration

5:00pm - 9:00pm

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sun., Dec. 31, 2023

Sunday Masses

8:30am, 10:30am, & 12:30pm

New Year's Eve Mass

5:00pm

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Mon., Jan. 1, 2024 : 9:00am & 11:00am

Multicultural Mass

Sat., Jan. 6, 2024: 5:00pm

**There will be no 4:00pm Mass

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Parish office hours during the Christmas
break:

Mon. - Thu., Dec 25 - 28, 2023 : Closed

Fri. - Sat., Dec. 29 - 30 : Open

Tue. - Wed., Jan. 2 - 3 : Closed

Thu., Jan. 4, 2024 : Open as usual

Donation Envelopes for the year 2024 are available for pick up in the foyer. Please ensure you have collected yours.

There will be NO fellowship coffee on :
Tue., Dec. 26, 2023; and
Thu., Dec. 28, 2023

Together in Action

The TIA 2023 is \$49,139.00

Collection up to date is \$54,677.39

We thank you for your generosity. All Surplus will go towards renovating the Church's Front Entrance.

'Nothing so humbles the proud sinner as the humility of Jesus Christ's humanity.'

St. Anthony of Padua

YEAR END GIVING

Thank you for thinking of us at this Advent/Christmas season. We grow in our Christian faith when we show others the love of Christ to people through building parish communities and offering programs that nurture our faith. We are truly grateful for your support. To contribute before Dec. 31, 2023, to give online, visit catholicyc.ca/give. For more information, visit catholicyc.ca/

Stewardship and Christmas: Turning the World Upside Down

For women in the ancient world, motherhood was prized and desired above almost all else. Sacred scripture tells of many women who pleaded with God to let them conceive. From Sarah, the mother of Isaac, to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, the Bible is replete with women who finally, in their old age, were granted the gift of motherhood for which they had begged God. How marvellously significant it is, then, that in the town of Nazareth those many years ago, a young girl named Mary, unmarried and probably feeling altogether unready for motherhood, was visited by an angel who delivered God's plea: would she give God a child? Mary's response is a model par excellence for all those who aspire to be good stewards: "Behold, I am the Lord's servant. Let it be done to me according to your word" (Lk. 1:38).

And so the real mystery and beauty of Christmas is delivered: God turns the world upside down. In the words of the Magnificat, Mary proclaims the hope of every good steward: "My soul magnifies the Lord" (Lk. 1:46). He has dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart, lifted up the lowly, filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. Here is a new understanding of the God who desires not our begging and our pleas, but our 'yes' to God's invitation to be active stewards in his plan of salvation. For the Christian steward, the consumerism, the gaudiness, the excesses of our cultural Christmas can be overcome by answering the call to live simpler lives, to use less, to feed the poor, to quiet ourselves in stillness rather than grow louder in frenzied activity.

In her book *The Vigil: Keeping Watch in the Season of Christ's Coming*, Professor Wendy Wright from Creighton University writes: "The ancient desert dwellers of our early Christian communities tell us that the surest way into the heart of God is to be still. In being still we learn to be attentive to the vast and hidden stillness that permeates all things." In a world which prizes and desires wealth above so many things, the Christian steward finds in the stillness the true hope which lies at the heart of Christmas. Christ has come, and he comes again and again, and finally in the end, Christ comes. Once again, God implores us to receive this child in the stillness of our hearts, and respond to his call to transform the world's values – to turn the world upside down.