ST. ALBERT THE GREAT CATHOLIC PARISH

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TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 2: 1-5 | Responsorial Psalm 122: 1-9 Romans 13: 11-14 | Matthew 24: 37-44

Advent: A Season of Hope and Renewal

As we begin the holy season of Advent, the Church invites us into a time of watchfulness, reflection, and joyful expectation for the coming of Christ.

In the spirit of the Jubilee Year proclaimed by Pope Francis last year and set to conclude this December, our Diocese is launching a matching financial campaign for parishes called, **Multiply the Hope.**

Once our parish has fulfilled all of its financial obligations (annual budget + our together in action goal) for the year, every additional dollar contributed **to reduce our parish loan** will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to our parish goal.

Even after the Jubilee year concludes on December 28 this year, the Diocese has extended this campaign to the end of 2027, giving us additional time to reach our parish goal.

Our goal for this matching program is \$366,115.00. This means that every contribution toward this goal has twice the impact, allowing our parish to move forward with greater freedom in strengthening the renewal priorities.

As we enter this Advent season, we invite you to pray, to reflect, and to respond generously. Together, let us prepare a strong, welcoming parish home for all who seek Christ. May this season of expectation fill us with hope, and may God complete the good work He has begun in us.

Find out more about this campaign at www.catholicyyc.ca/multiplythehope

ATTENTION: Our Evening Mass & Confession Schedule has been modified to accommodate school liturgies & concerts, and on the following evenings there will be NO Mass or Confession. Dec 3, Dec 4, Dec 9, Dec 10 or Dec 11.



1st Sunday of Advent

Nov 30, 2025

Mass Schedule

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: 9:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Wednesday: 9:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Thursday: 9:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Friday: 9:00 AM & 6:30 PM

Saturday: 9:00 AM

5:00 PM (Anticipatory)

Sunday: 9:00 AM

11:30 AM

5:00 PM

Adoration

Friday: 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Confession

Tuesday: 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Wednesday: 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Thursday: 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Friday: 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Saturday: 3:30 PM

Office Hours

Mon to Fri: 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM*

*Closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1:00 PM

Closed Weekends & all Statutory Holidays

Charitable Registration Number/BN 107909939 RR0084

PRAYER BOARD

Romans 12:12: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer"

Al Eberle	Edith Tyndall	Katrina G. Hamedani	Patricia Atkinson	
Al Johnson	Elaine Hopfner	Kristin Bell	Paul Schneider	
Alfred Cust	Eleanor Cutshaw	Landon Miller	Peter Hammel	
Amelia Aureo	Elizabeth Emefiene	Lawernce McNally	Rob & Family	
Anna Langley-Butt	Felipe Manalo	Len Grose	Robert Schimpf	
Anna Marie Kolesar	Georgia Little	Lena Reichert	Robert Visockas	
Anne Zabala	Gertrude Hosemann	Lennon Casebeer	Rod P	
Anthonia Ifeora	Graeme McLean	Linda Foo	Rosanne Pinchin	
Arton Rizah Berisha	Harold Freeman	Linda Shaw	Roy Vinke Ryan Alexander	
Baby Noel Rodgers	Henry Retzlaff	Lori Cadrin		
Baby Pheonix Rodgers	Ifeoma Sogwu	Luz Estela Gallego	Ryan Riddell	
Bill Yont	Isabel Maclean	Malcom Little	Sam Secreti	
Bob Tetriak	Ivan Jovica	Margaret Diaze	Sandra Rorbak	
Boris Jovica	Iwona Pisko	Maria	Sharon Berisha Wong Shawn Freeman	
Burke Masse	Jamie Brown	Maria Elder		
Camilla Kosariyeganeh	Janyce Anderson	Maria Luis	Slavica Jovica	
Carol Meredith	Jessica Gibson	Marnie Helash	Sogwu family	
Cheryl Mioamico	John Millar	Marta Marenco	Steve Clarmo	
Chris G	John Posluszny	Michelle Fiorillo	Susanne Smith	
Chris Lloyd	Jonathan Banks	Mike Watson	Taylor Rohrer	
Clara Kosariyeganeh	Jose Loya Jr.	Myrna Rolfes	Therese Wiebald	
Clay Cutshaw	Judy Look	Nash Hallett	Ulrich Hart	
Darren Little	Kamran P. Mosavari	Natalie Little	Victoria McEachern	
Dcn. Tony Klein	Karen Wong	Neil Atwater	Vojtek	
Dick Flynn	Kathryn Boyer	Owen Dorfman		

PRAYER BOARD: The Prayer Board is intended for any living person requiring prayers. Due to the size of the Parish and our prayer board requests, we now require follow-ups within three months of a request. Please contact the office to have someone added or removed from the board at secretary@stalbertthegreat.ca

ADVENT AT ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

Advent has a twofold nature: It prepares us for Christmas, when we recall Christ's first coming among us, and it as also a time when we look forward to his second coming at the end of the ages. Advent is a season of joyful expectation (see *GNLY*, no.39.) During Advent, each Sunday's Gospel reading has a specific focus. The Old Testament readings, especially those taken from Isaiah, are prophecies about the Messiah and messianic times. The selections from the writings of the Apostles present exhortations and instructions on different themes of this season. *Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Ordo 2025/2026

Join us for an Advent Renewal Diocesan Retreat Sat, Dec 6, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm in our Church Hall. Enter into the holy season of Advent with a renewed spirit of listening. Join Archbishop Terrence Prendergast for a reflective diocesan retreat on how the living Word of God shapes our hearts for discipleship and mission. Parishioners are invited to gather in person in our parish to participate together, as Archbishop Prendergast joins through livestream.

Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas. **Come to our Advent Penitential Service December 12**th **after 6:30 pm Holy Mass** and rejoice in God's Mercy! Can't make our penitential service? No problem, visit: https://www.catholicyyc.ca/news.html#start_date=2025-12-01 to see the diocese schedule.

Read this Guide for Confession (Examination of Conscience, prayer before confession, prayer during confession etc.) if it has been a while for you: https://thelightison.org/guide-to-confession/

UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Tues,	Dec	2	at	9:00 AM	Fr. Lima Clauber (INT)
Tues,	Dec	2	at	10:00 AM	Ronald V. Cadiente (RIP)
Tues,	Dec	2	at	6:00 PM	Sharon van de Sloot (INT)
Wed,	Dec	3	at	9:00 AM	Miles McCall (RIP)
Wed,	Dec	3	at	10:30 AM	Chris & Joicelle Corpuz (INT)
Wed,	Dec	3	at	6:00 PM	St. Gianna School
Thur,	Dec	4	at	9:00 AM	Miles McCall (RIP)
Thur,	Dec	4	at	1:30 PM	Lilia Tiples (RIP)
Thur,	Dec	4	at	6:00 PM	Monsignor Smith School
Fri,	Dec	5	at	9:00 AM	Wilfread & Milread Seneviratne (RIP)
Fri,	Dec	5	at	6:30 PM	Izack Lorenson (INT)
Sat,	Dec	6	at	9:00 AM	Erlinda & Rizalino Garcia (RIP)
Sat,	Dec	6	at	5:00 PM	Elizandro Altura (INT)
Sun,	Dec	7	at	9:00 AM	Pat Johnson (RIP)
Sun,	Dec	7	at	11:30 AM	St. Albert the Great Parish Community
Sun,	Dec	7	at	5:00 PM	Jason Edward Garcia (INT)

MASS INTENTION AVAILABILITY

February is open for booking. Please note December & January are full.

To request a Mass intention please visit the parish office downstairs during office hours, call 403.257.6054 or email secretary@stalbertthegreat.ca

Our parish serves over 9000 families; intentions are limited to two per family within the three-

Thank you for honoring this system. Please contact the office with questions.

month period.

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up." – Luke 18:1

PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS

St. Vincent de Paul Our journey toward Bethlehem during advent has started very nicely.

YOU have swelled our hearts St. Albert the Great Parishioners! We now have a full slate of packers and delivery teams for the 2025 Christmas Hampers. **Thank you.** We are still needing gift cards so please take a tag from one of our Giving Christmas Trees in the Narthex, purchase a gift card (Superstore, Canadian Tire or Walmart) and **bring the gift cards in by Sunday December 14th** so they can be included in the hampers.

Gift cards can be:

- given to a St. Vincent de Paul member in the Narthex before or after each of the weekend masses
- placed in the regular collection baskets at any mass
- deposited into the locked SSVP collection box above the SVP bin in the Narthex
- delivered to the church office

The Flight Before Christmas Concert in our church on December 6th supports our SVP efforts. Check out the poster and come together to enjoy this festive experience of Christmas.

Donations can be made by cash, cheque (to SSVP or Society of St. Vincent de Paul) or e-transfer to svdp.satg.donations@gmail.com How ever you choose to donated, be sure to note if you are sponsoring a family and always include your name and contact information so we can send you a tax receipt. Your gift is greatly needed and appreciated! Tax receipts will be issued in February 2026.

Jesus is HOPE! Thank you for giving HOPE.

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest: The **Knights of Columbus** are hosting a poster contest for children is grades K to 8. Students can create a poster that reflects the theme of "Keep Christ in Christmas". 2. Each poster should be the original work (including concept, layout, slogan and any visual images) of a single person. 3. Posters should be 11X17 inches in size. If pastels, chalk or charcoal are used the poster must be laminated or covered with clear plastic. Posters may be in color or in black and white. **Posters are Due December 12th at Noon.** Stop by the Knights table this weekend and pick up a entry form. Bring your posters back to the parish office during office hours or the welcome desk on the weekends – be sure to give it to a volunteer please do not leave it on the counter.

WEEKLY PARISH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, November 30, 10:00: Festival of Crèches, Parish Basement – to 3pm
6:15 PM: Children's Christmas Mass rehearsal, Church
Monday, December 1, 11:30 AM: Private Funeral Viewing, Fr. Pats Room
1:30 PM: Funeral & Reception, Church & Parish Hall
6:30 PM: Sacrament of Confirmation Parent Session, Church
7:30 PM: Sunday 5pm Choir Ministry Practice
Tuesday, December 2, 9:30 AM: Arts & Crafts Group, St. Albert Room
10:00 AM: Rivera Care Centre Mass, McKenzie Towne
7:00 PM: Eucharistic Minister Training, Church
7:00 PM: KofC Monthly Executive Council Meeting, St. Francis Room
7:00 PM: CWL Executive Monthly Meeting, St. Albert Room
Wednesday, December 3, 9:30 AM: 50+ Fabulous Group Meet Up, St. Albert Room, Parish Basement
10:30 AM: Age Care Seton Mass, Seton
5:00 PM: St. Gianna School Liturgy, Church
6:00 PM: Reconciliation Preparation Session 4, Main Hall
7:00 PM: RCIA, Main Hall
Thursday, December 4, 1:30 PM: The Journey Club Mass, Westman Village
5:00 PM: Monsignor Smith School Concert
6:30 PM: ECYD Youth Ministry, Main Hall
Friday, December 5, 6:00 PM: Reconciliation Preparation Session 4, Main Hall
7:00 PM: First Friday Holy Hour, Church
Saturday, December 6, 10:30 AM: Group Baptism, Church
11:00 Noon: Couples for Christ Chapter Prayer Assembly, Parish Basement
5:00 PM: Stampede City Chorus Rehearsal, Fr. Pat's & St. Francis rooms
7:30 PM: Stampede City Chorus Concert, Church

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES

<u>First Friday Devotion</u> We have First Friday Holy Hour coming up on <u>Friday December 5th</u>, to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This will happen following the evening Mass, from 7-8pm. We will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, and Prayer Ministry!

St. Albert the Great Parish the Stampede City Mixed Chorus is gearing up for this year's performance!

When: Saturday, December 6 at 7:30 pm.

Admission is also free though a donation to the SATG St. Vincent de Paul Society would be much appreciated (cash or food items). You will have time to go to the 5 pm mass, grab a bite to eat somewhere and then return in time for the show which is less than 90 minutes long. This year's show will have over 50 performers singing in 4-part acappella. It's also a very family friendly event so you'll still be able to make it home by shortly after 9 pm. The show itself will be very loosely based on the poem "The Night Before Christmas".

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

CELEBRATION: A holy day of obligation is a type of solemnity. In the Church, solemnities are special days when there is a deeper opportunity to reflect on a particular mystery of the faith or remember a particular saint. At their core, these holy days are celebrations, not obligations. The Church is inviting the faithful to celebrate!

Holy days of obligation are feast days on which Catholics are required to attend Mass and to avoid (to the extent that they are able) servile work. The faithful go to Mass on these days to rejoice. The Church invites the faithful to Mass on these holy days to recall that there is a reason to rejoice - "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3: 16.) From this perspective, holy days of obligation are a gift. The faithful take a step back from preoccupations to remember what is true, good, and beautiful. And it is a day of obligation so the celebration at the Mass extends to the whole day.

OBSERVANCE: The observance of Holy Days of Obligation is part of the Sunday Duty, the first of the Precepts of the Church. The five precepts of the Catholic Church are:

- 1. Attend Mass on Sundays and days of obligation.
- 2. Confess your sins at least once a year.
- 3. Receive the Eucharist at least once a year.
- 4. Observe days of <u>fasting and abstinence</u>.
- 5. Provide for the needs of the Church.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION IN CANADA: Canada has two holy days of obligation: Christmas and Mary, Mother of God. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has decreed that the Holy Days of obligation to be observed in Canada in conformity with canon 1246 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, are as follows:

- January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; and
- December 25, the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The feasts of the Epiphany, the Ascension, the Holy Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) are transferred to the following Sunday.

Excerpt taken from the Peterborough Diocese of Canada: https://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/en/how-do-i-find/holy-days-of-obligation.aspx

BAPTISM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you looking for a way to help/volunteer but don't have a great deal of time to commit? We have the perfect ministry for you! We need a few more helpers for our baptism ministry. Time required would be less than 2 hours every 4 weeks (or less if we get some more help). This ministry would involve greeting families arriving to have their child/children receive the beautiful sacrament of baptism; showing the families to their seats, and assisting the presiders as needed.

Group baptisms take place at the church on most Saturday mornings at 10:30 am. Your time commitment would be from about 10:00 am to 11:30 am. This ministry is suitable for adult singles, couples or even a parent/child team. If you are interested, or would like more information, please contact Rosanna at the church office: 403.257.6054, ext. 225 or baptisms@stalbertthegreat.ca

DID YOU KNOW?

We have a coat room located on the East side our Narthex. Parishioners are welcome to hang their coats during mass to make room for ample seating in the pews. With the cold weather upon us, please consider taking advantage of this under-utilized resource.

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE

St. Albert the Great Statement of Cash Flow 9 months Ended September 30, 2025

Cash Receipts

Collections from Parishioners for Regular Operations \$ 665,726

Major Donations and Gifts in Kind 14,405

Educations, Church Supplies and Stole Fees 55,275

Total Cash Receipts from Operations \$ 735,406

Cash Expenses

Salaries and Administration \$ 251,067

Maintenance 238,601

Diocesan Support 100,674

Rectory 33,599

Church Programs 74,765

Total Cash Expenses for Operations \$ 698,706

Cash received from Operations \$ 36,700

Cash received for Cooling System \$ 86,929

Total Cash received from Operations & Cooling System \$ 123,629

Building Fund Transactions

Building fund collections received from parishioners \$ 122,582

Building fund loan payments made

Principal \$91,391 Interest \$70,609

Total \$162,000

Cash required from operations to offset building fund deficit \$ (39,418)

Cash Receipts in Excess of Disbursements \$ 84, 211

Investment in Capital Assets \$ 228, 539

Cash Disbursements in Excess of Receipts \$ (144,328)

As of the end of October:

Our Together in Action goal for the year was \$78, 445. We have surpassed our goal by \$6,083.63!

We have raised \$95,156.58 towards our **Cooling System** goal of \$250,000.

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

St. Gerard's Parish presents Merry Merry Christmas with the Cappy Smart Band. Christmas Concert Sing-along and storytelling. **Tuesday December 2 at 7:30 pm** in their Parish Hall. \$10 per person, \$30 family (4 max) Children 12 & under are free. For tickets call 403-253-2251. 8948 Elbow Drive SW, Calgary.

Advent by Candlelight – An Evening for Women Wed, Dec 3rd at 6:30pm. Take a quiet pause this Advent season and join the ladies of Ascension Catholic Parish for an evening of peaceful reflection on the meaning of Advent—illuminated by the beauty of candlelight. 1100 Berkshire Blvd. NW.

Living Nativity at Holy Name Church (Calgary) Sat, Dec 6, from 4 pm to 7 pm at Holy Name Church, Calgary – Walk through Bethlehem with live animals, characters, food, and family activities as the story of Jesus' birth is shared.

The Living Nativity at St. James Parish, Okotoks Sat, Dec 6, from 4 pm to 8 pm at St. James Parish – Experience the Village of Bethlehem with live actors, live music, and live animals. Refreshments available for purchase in the church hall.

Advent Taize Prayer Service at St. Luke's. Enter into the quiet beauty of Advent through an evening of Taizé prayer. Simple chants, gentle repetition, and candlelit silence invite us to renew our hearts and rest in the nearness of Christ's coming. When: **Sat, Dec 6, from 7 pm to 9 pm at St. Luke's Church, Calgary.** This meditative service offers a peaceful space to sing, pray, and listen as we prepare for the birth of our Saviour. All are welcome.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - Jubilee Mass with Bishop McGrattan | Save the date and join Bishop William McGrattan for the final Jubilee Mass of the Holy Year, celebrating the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. **When: Mon, Dec 8 at 7 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral.** This Mass will include the Apostolic Blessing with a plenary indulgence.

Loreto Crypt Blessing. You are invited to pray with Bishop William T. McGrattan at the blessing of the newly completed **Loreto Crypt: Sanctuary for Little Souls** at Queen's Park Cemetery. This sacred space has been created as a place of prayer, remembrance, and hope for families who have experienced the loss of infants and unborn children. When: **Wed, Dec 10, 2025 at 4 pm,** at Queen's Park Cemetery, 3219 4 St. NW, Calgary

All are welcome to St. John Choir Schola's **A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols 2025**. **When:** Sunday, December 14th **Where:** St. Mary's Cathedral, Calgary. **Time:** 7:30 pm

Benedictine Spirituality By Oblates of St. Benedict, Thursday Dec 18th Online via Zoom at 7pm. Would you like to learn about Benedictine spirituality and how to live a balanced prayer and work life? All are welcome to join us for:

Vespers (evening prayer), How to apply the Rule of St. Benedict to everyday life & Lectio Divina

We meet online via Zoom from 7:00 pm to 8:15 pm MT. Contact Mark at (403) 836-0545 or mark.richards.ml@gmail.com for more information. Hosted by the Oblates of St. Benedict, spiritually associated with Mount Angel Abbey in Oregon, USA.

Elizabeth House: Make your gift go further. This season, a matching donor will double every contribution to Elizabeth House up to \$25,000. Your support provides young mothers with safe housing, access to education, counselling, and the practical skills they need to prepare for independent living. Give today at <u>elizabethhousecalgary.ca</u> The deadline to give within the matching campaign: **Dec 19**.

We did it! VICTORY—Thank You! The Liberal budget did NOT strip churches and pro-life organizations of their charitable status. The government backed away from two dangerous recommendations that would have removed charitable status from both religious institutions and pro-life organizations, recommendations that would have devastated the charitable sector in Canada. Many are breathing a real sigh of relief, but we are also *giving thanks*. Because this victory was not handed to us. It was won by the grace of God, by prayer, and through <u>your action</u>. *Jeff Gunnarson, Campaign Life Coalition

BOOKS TO READ & SHARE IN ADVENT

Check out - <u>Looking for meaningful ways to journey through Advent?</u> And consider picking up one of these inspiring books to read this season.

Books

- 1. J.R.R. Tolkien, Letters from Father Christmas (2023)

 A delightful collection of letters Tolkien wrote to his children as Father Christmas. Get it at HarperCollins | Amazon
- Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI), Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives (2012)
 An exploration of the early life of Jesus, offering deep theological insights. Get it at Penguin Random House
- Peter Celano, Christmas with the Holy Fathers (2008)
 A compilation of writings from the Church Fathers on the meaning of Christmas. Get it at <u>Amazon</u>
- Pope Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi (2007)
 An encyclical on Christian hope, relevant during the Advent season. Get it at CCCB Publications
- Pope Francis, Christmas at the Nativity (2023)
 Reflections and meditations by Pope Francis on the Nativity scene. Get it at Focolare Media | Amazon
- 6. Scott Hahn, *Joy to the World: How Christ's Coming Changed Everything (And Still Does)* (2014)
 An exploration of the profound impact of Christ's birth on the world. Get it at Amazon
- 7. **Sophie de Mullenheim**, *24 Christmas Stories for Little Ones* (2012)

 A delightful collection of Christmas stories for children. Get it at Amazon

PARISH DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Donations & Financial support from our parishioners, visitors and guests are always a blessing.

We thank everyone who has contributed to the parish this past year, without you we could not operate. Our parish relies on regular offertory giving for maintenance and growth. By making a donation you are providing crucial support to our parish.

*TAX RECEIPT NOTE: anyone seeking a tax receipt for their donation must ensure A) that you provide your full name, address and email (On the physical envelope, or by forwarding your first e-transfer confirmation email to donations@stalbertthegreat.ca and providing us your information) and B) that you are registered with the parish.

<u>Donations</u> can be made a variety of ways, debit or credit, cash, cheque, e-transfer.

Please visit our website for more details: <u>Donations - St Albert The Great | https://stalbertthegreat.ca/donations</u>

Please note that donations have to be physically received by Dec 31st for them to count towards 2025.

Tax receipts are emailed before the end of February. To ensure that we have the correct email on file please call us at 403.257.6054 If we don't have your email information, only tax receipts over \$50 will be mailed out.

Unfortunately, due to the high costs associated to the Tip Tap Pay machine we have decided to discontinue its use. Please consider donating directly to the parish via one of the above methods to have the most impact.

For the complete list of Diocesan News & Events click:

News & Events - ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY (catholicyyc.ca)
Formed | On-Demand Catholic Movies, Audio Books, Podcasts & More
Faithfully - ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY

Sunday Resources for children
Catholic Mom Gospel Coloring Pages
Sunday Connection (Gr. 1-8)
Explore the Sunday Gospel at 52sundays.com