

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT CATHOLIC PARISH

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Dcn. Joseph Gingco: joseph.gingco@calgarydiocese.ca

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 11: 1-10 | Responsorial Psalm 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Romans 15: 4-9 | Matthew 3: 1-12

Advent with St. Albert the Great Parish

Advent Renewal Diocesan Retreat at St. Albert the Great. **Sat, Dec 6, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm** in the St. Albert the Great 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.

Monday Dec 8th, 9:00 am Holy Mass for *The Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

December 12th after 6:30 pm Holy Mass, *Parish Advent Penitential Service:* Come and take the opportunity to receive reconciliation (confession) with one of many visiting priests that will be here at St. Albert the Great.

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 9, or Dec 10



St. Albert the Great
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

2nd Sunday of Advent

Dec 7, 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
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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

PRAYER BOARD

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

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

WHO IS ST. NICHOLAS?

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of [Patara](#) in [Asia Minor](#). At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made [Bishop](#) of [Myra](#) while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor [Diocletian](#), who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the [Council of Nicaea](#) in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique [relic](#), called [manna](#), formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, [St. Nicholas Day](#), December 6th (December 19 if on the Julian Calendar).

Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need. To learn more about St. Nicholas and to continue reading this article please visit: <https://www.stnicholascenter.org/who-is-st-nicholas>

UPCOMING MASS INTENTIONS

Tues,	Dec	9	at	9:00 AM	Shawn McCormick (RIP)
Tues,	Dec	9	at	11:00 AM	Teresa Alegrado (RIP)
Tues,	Dec	9	at	6:30 PM	No Mass
Wed,	Dec	10	at	9:00 AM	Gerald Cadrin (RIP)
Wed,	Dec	10	at	6:30 PM	No Mass
Thur,	Dec	11	at	9:00 AM	Maximo Santos (RIP)
Thur,	Dec	11	at	6:30 PM	Lucila Tan (RIP)
Fri,	Dec	12	at	9:00 AM	Deanna & Bob (INT)
Fri,	Dec	12	at	6:30 PM	Irene Alonso (RIP)
Sat,	Dec	13	at	9:00 AM	Victoria Pali (RIP)
Sat,	Dec	13	at	5:00 PM	Santiago Solano (RIP)
Sun,	Dec	14	at	9:00 AM	Nicole Williams (RIP)
Sun,	Dec	14	at	11:30 AM	St. Albert the Great Parish Community
Sun,	Dec	14	at	5:00 PM	Juan Carlos Dequina (RIP)

MASS INTENTION AVAILABILITY

February is almost full. Please note December & January are full. The first two weeks of March are open to book.

To request a Mass intention please visit the parish office downstairs during office hours, call [403.257.6054](tel:403.257.6054) or email secretary@stalbertthegreat.ca

Our parish serves over 9000 families; intentions are limited to two per family within the three-month period. Thank you for honoring this system. Please contact the office with questions.

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

ADVENT WREATHS AND THEIR MEANING

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man." -Pope Francis

While searching for information about Advent I came across this [blog](#) on Hallow.com about Advent Candles & Wreaths that I wanted to share with you. Sometimes we can become complacent in our actions, going through the motions so to say, because it's something we do every year. But this year I wanted to take a moment to reflect on why we do what we do, and just what the history of this beautiful tradition can remind us of during this season of preparation and waiting.

The blog uses a great analogy of what we do when we are expecting a guest to arrive at our home, turning on lights, cleaning, anticipating their arrival and then welcoming our guests with joy. In Advent we do much of the same, we prepare not only our homes and churches but ourselves as we anticipate His arrival and then we celebrate on Christmas day when the light of the world joins us once again.

The history of the Advent wreath has been traced back to Germany, though the exact dates are unknown. What we do know is that the tradition spread throughout the western Church and today it has become an Advent staple. Its circular shape symbolizes God's infinite love for us, never ending. Evergreen branches, or a modern version the symbolism remains the same. The lighting of the candles, and scripture readings remind us of what this season is all about.

The four candles represent the four Sundays of Advent. Advent week 1 – Hope: Prophecy Candle (purple), Advent week 2 – Peace: Bethlehem Candle (purple), Advent week 3 – Joy: Shepherd's Candle (pink), Advent week 4 – Love: Angel's Candle (purple). In some parishes and homes, people will also light a fifth candle, a larger white one in the center of the wreath on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to represent Jesus' birth.

A wonderful way to bring scripture into your advent wreath candle lighting is to read one chapter of the book of Luke in the bible every day for the month of December. By Christmas Eve, you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life and wake up Christmas morning knowing who and why we celebrate!

The blog is filled with prayers, a wreath blessing, history and explanations, you can read more about it here:

<https://hallow.com/blog/advent-candles-and-advent-wreaths/>

WEEKLY PARISH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 7 , 10:00 AM: Sunday Social, Parish Main Hall
12:30 PM: Sunday Social, Parish Main Hall
6:15 PM: Children's Christmas Mass rehearsal, Church
Monday, December 8 , 9:30 AM: SVdP School Food Drive Delivery, Main Hall & St. John's Hall
1:00 PM: SVdP School Food Drive Delivery, Main Hall & St. John's Hall
6:30 PM: Reconciliation Preparation Session 4, Main Hall
7:30 PM: Sunday 5pm Choir Ministry Practice
Tuesday, December 9 , 9:30 AM: Arts & Crafts Group, St. Albert Room
11:00 AM: Mass at Rivera Long Term Care Centre, McKenzie Towne
5:00 PM: St. John Henry Newman School Concert, Church & Narthex
6:30 PM: Reconciliation Preparation Session 4, Main Hall
7:00 PM: K of C Monthly General Meeting, St. Albert Room
Wednesday, December 10 , 6:30 PM: Reconciliation Preparation Session 4, Main Hall
6:30 PM: St. Albert the Great School Liturgy
7:00 PM: RCIA, Main Hall
Thursday, December 11 , 9:30 AM: Grandparents Ministry Monthly Meetup, St. Albert Room
CANCELLED 5:30 PM: Our Lady of the Rosary School Liturgy
6:30 PM: ECYD Youth Ministry Christmas Event, Main Hall
6:30 PM: Diaconate Formation Interviews, St. Francis Room
Friday, December 12 , 6:00 PM: Canasta Group 4 th Friday Meet-up, St. Albert Room
6:30 PM: Reconciliation Preparation Session 4, Main Hall
7:00 PM: Parish Advent Penitential Service, Church
Saturday, December 13 , 9:00 AM: Couples for Christ Prayer Assembly, Main Hall, St. Albert Room
9:30 AM: St. Albert's Men's Group, St. Johns Hall
10:30 AM: Group Baptism, Church
12:00 Noon: Wedding, Church
2:00 PM: School-Age Baptism Preparation Session 3, Church
3:00 PM: Couples for Christ – Youth Christmas Party, Main Hall

DIOCESE PENITENTIAL SERVICES

During the Advent season many parishes will gather together to hold either Reconciliation or Penitential Services, to facilitate and encourage celebration of God's mercy. We echo the sentiments of the Archdiocese of Vancouver: ***This Advent, take an important step in your spiritual journey by returning to Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. By opening your heart to his healing mercy, you are preparing a place for his joy and peace to dwell within you this Christmas.***

You might be wondering what a Penitential Service is; foremost it is to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas, to remind us of God's mercy we celebrate and receive him as a community, and to have personal reconciliation with God and one another through prayer and reflection.

If you are unable to attend our penitential service below is the link to the schedule that includes parishes across our diocese

<https://www.catholicyc.ca/advent.html#penitential>

PARISH CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



St. Albert the Great Catholic Parish CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



MASS TIMES

WED, DEC 24 9:00am- Regular Morning Mass
Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord - 4:00pm, 7:00pm 9:00pm

Midnight Mass 12:00am

THURS, DEC 25 9:00am, 11:30am 2:00pm & 5:00pm
Holy Day of Obligation: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

FRI, DEC 26 9:00am & 6:30pm

SAT DEC 27 9:00am & 5:00pm (Anticipatory)

SUN, DEC 28 9:00am, 11:30am & 5:00pm

TUES, DEC 30 9:00am & 6:30pm

WED, DEC 31 9:00am- Regular Morning Mass
5:00pm -Vigil Mass; Solemnity of Mary,
The Holy Mother of God

THURS, JAN 1 9:00am, 11:30am & 5:00pm
Holy Day of Obligation: Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

FRI, JAN 2 9:00am & 6:30pm

CONFESSION

WED, DEC 24 - NONE

THURS, DEC 25 - NONE

FRI, DEC 26 - 9:30am & 7:00pm

SAT, DEC 27 - 3:30pm

SUN, DEC 28 -NONE

TUES, DEC 30 - 9:30am & 7:00pm

WED, DEC 31 - 9:30am & 7:00pm

THURS, JAN 1 - NONE

FRI, JAN 2 - 9:30am & 7:00pm

SAT, JAN 3 - 3:30pm

OFFICE HOURS

WE ARE CLOSED AT 12:30PM
DECEMBER 24TH THROUGH JANUARY 1ST

The office will re-open Jan 2nd with regular operating hours



Our parish is growing in numbers, what a blessing! This Christmas we anticipate very high attendance at 4:00pm, 7:00pm and 9:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve and 11:30am on Christmas Day. For the safety of all, we must enforce our church capacity which means we may have to lock the doors to the church once we reach that capacity.

To avoid disappointment, we are advising everyone to please arrive early or consider attending one of the other Mass times where the attendance is much lower: Christmas Day at Midnight, 9:00am, 2:00pm and 5:00pm

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](tel:403.257.6054), ext. 225 or baptisms@stalbertthegreat.ca

PARISH MINISTRIES & GROUPS

SVdP Christmas Hampers 2025

Our journey toward Bethlehem during advent continues. We are 2 weeks to hamper delivery day.

We are still needing gift cards; 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

... **Hope to see you at *The Flight Before Christmas Concert*** in our church on December 6th.

Bakers will be needed! Put the reminder in your calendar for Dec 17 – 20 if you can provide. We are fortunate to have many students and volunteers helping to prepare and assemble the Christmas Hampers in two week and we want to keep their tummies satisfied as they work.

All SVP 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. However you choose to donate, 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.

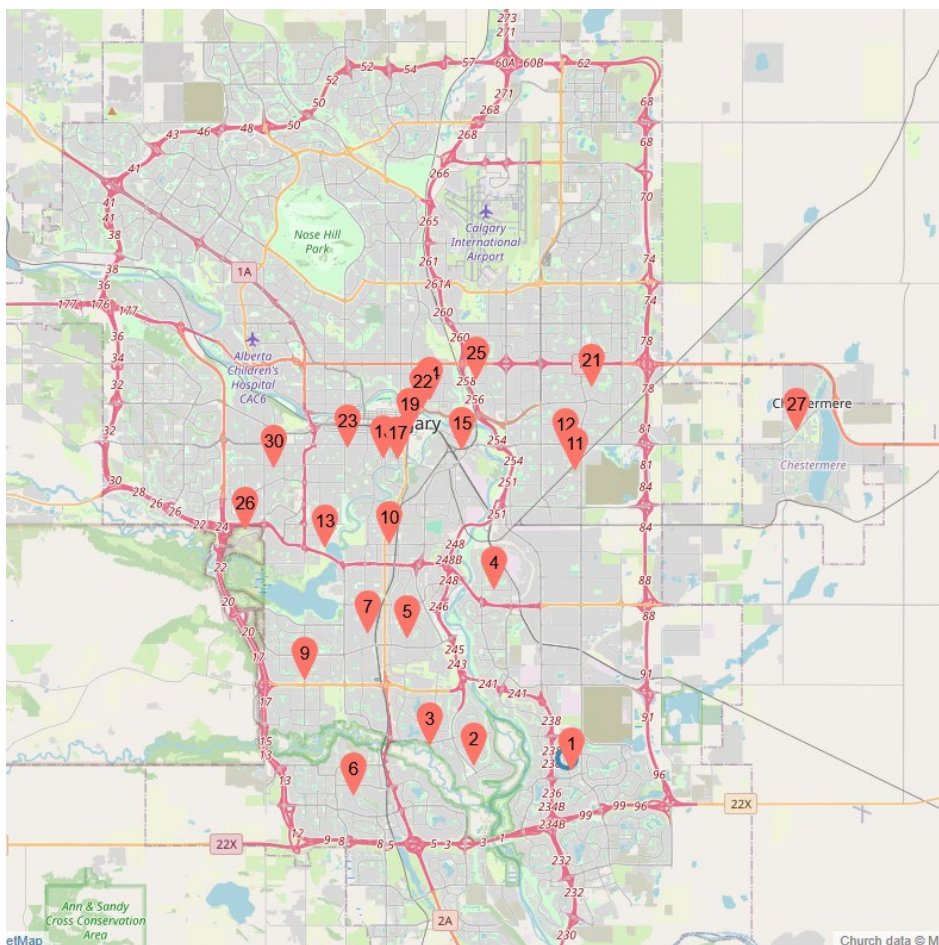
Jesus is the Prince of Peace! Thank you for sharing that Peace with everyone, especially those who need it most.

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest: The **Knights of Columbus** are hosting a poster contest for children in 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 an 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.

PARISH FINDER

The diocese of Calgary recently launched *Parish Finder* (Through [Masstimes.org](https://masstimes.org)), an interactive map that allows you to search for Parishes by Mass, Confession, Adoration, and or Parish location. This wonderful tool allows you to quickly see the nearest parish to you, if you are traveling, or if you are unable to attend one of our masses.

Here is a link to the Calgary area on the map as seen in the screen shot below: <https://masstimes.org/map?lat=50.924&lng=-113.967&SearchQueryTerm=Calgary,%20Alberta,%20Canada>



From the website:

The purpose of the MassTimes ministry is to **help Catholics get to Mass by helping them find churches and worship times worldwide**. We do this by hosting and sharing the most comprehensive database of Catholic churches and worship times in existence. Dioceses, parishes, and many volunteers help us keep the database current. We also host the masstimes.org website and iOS/Android apps that our visitors use to search for churches.

The Mass Times Trust is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization in the United States. The Diocese of Lansing in Michigan operates it as a free service to all who are interested in finding a church for Mass or Reconciliation. The diocese does not provide funding, though: [Masstimes.org](https://masstimes.org) relies on donations from those who use the service.

JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT



Brought to us by the Marian Fathers at the [National Shrine of The Divine Mercy](#): Father Anthony Gramlich launches a new weekly series, "**Journey through Advent**," on how we can best observe the holy penitential season and prepare for the birth of Jesus.

Then hear Fr. Donald Calloway as he explains Monday's great Marian solemnity, the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation.

Watch here: [Journey through Advent](#)

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.

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

Please visit our website for more details: [Donations - St Albert The Great](#) | <https://stalbertthegreat.ca/donations>

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](tel: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.



The Diocese of Calgary launched *Multiply the Hope*, a Jubilee matching initiative that invests up to \$12 million in local parish renewal. Even after the Jubilee Year concludes on December 28, 2025, this matching opportunity will continue through 2027, giving us additional time to reach our goal. During this three-year period, every dollar contributed to a parish's Building Fund or Repairs & Maintenance Fund is matched by the Diocese, up to each parish's designated goal.

You can learn more here:

<https://www.catholiccycc.ca/multiplythehope.html>

MISSION MEXICO DECEMBER 12

Join us in supporting [Mission Mexico Day on Dec 12](#), the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and **Mission Mexico Sunday on Dec 13/14** in the parishes. These special days remind us of our call to walk in solidarity with marginalized communities in southern Mexico, providing vital support for education, healthcare, and sustainable development. Let us come together to share hope and transform lives through our generosity.

There will be a Collection on the Third Sunday of Advent (Dec. 13/14) for Mission Mexico. Direct link to donate online - <https://www.catholiccycc.ca/donatemissionmexico.html>

For the complete list of Diocesan News & Events click:

[News & Events - ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF CALGARY \(catholiccycc.ca\)](#)
[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 \(Gr. 1-8\)](#)
[Children's Liturgy of the Word July & August](#)

For more information on Diocesan News & Events please visit <https://www.catholiccycc.ca/news>