



## FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 03 DECEMBER 2023

**"And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."**

### *Announced Mass intentions*

Sat., Dec. 02	5:00PM Mass – Chang Kam Sue+
Sun., Dec. 03	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 8:00AM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners 10:00AM Mass – Cam Johnson+ Roland Hilaire+ Eldon Jones+ Trish Brighton+ Cecil Roy+
Wed., Dec. 06	12:15PM Mass – Gerta Patry+
Thurs., Dec. 07	12:15PM Mass – Dionne Family+ Jessica Bradley+
Fri., Dec. 08	11:30AM <b>ADORATION</b> until 12 noon 12:15PM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners
Sat., Dec. 09	5:00PM Mass – John Boyer+
Sun., Dec. 10	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 8:00AM Mass – Holy Cross Parishioners 10:00AM Mass – Alma Serrette (lvg) Russell Connolly (lvg) Agnes & William Nugent+ Barbara Bailey+

### *Events Calendar ...*

Sat., Dec. 02	4:40PM Rosary – Church
Tues., Dec. 05	1:00PM Faith Study
Wed., Dec. 06	7:00PM Choir Practice – Church / Rm. C 7:00PM Faith Study – Library 7:00PM K of C Executive mtg
Thurs., Dec. 07	1:00PM Club 55 – Hall
Fri., Dec. 08	9:30AM Faith Study – Rm. A
Sat., Dec. 09	10:00AM Hospitality – Hall
Sun., Dec. 10	<b>COFFEE SUNDAY</b> after morning Masses



**ROSARY:** All are invited to join us a half an hour before our weekday Masses for the Rosary (and at 4:40 pm on Saturdays before our 5 pm Mass) and the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Fridays.

### **†OUR CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS:**

For the departed souls of

**Warner Besserer+** (husband of Marilyn Besserer)

**Angela Templin+** (mother of Joe Templin)

**May their souls rest in peace.**



### *Pastor's Message...*

#### **BE ALERT**

Today we are beginning the season of Advent, the season of faith, hope and love. Once again, we will be reminded of God's love for his people through his promises and assurances. We all know that we have been saved by Christ, the love of God made manifest. Yet as we journey onward, ours is a journey towards that final redemption. We have been saved already but not yet. The celebration of Advent is not anything new. Jesus has already come; the kingdom of justice and righteousness has been already established and we are experiencing it. However our experiences are not yet perfect, we are marching towards it as we eagerly wait for the second coming of Christ. This is why every Advent celebration is not just a celebration of the past but a call to be alert for the final judgement day.

Let us remember the true reason for Advent and Christmas in the midst of all our celebrations, gift exchanges, decorations etc. The first thing to do is be aware of Jesus' intimate presence in our midst in different ways.

As we prepare for Advent, try to make use of the opportunities the Church is offering to us. Create some family traditions rooted in our faith beyond external celebrations. Make use of the resources available on the "FORMED" website, subscribe to Bishop Barron's daily reflections, attend the weekday masses and so on. Finally, put into practice whatever resolutions you have chosen for this season of grace.

Happy Advent.  
Fr. Lukose CMF

### *Parish News and Community Life...*

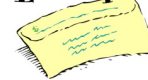


**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Our **PARISH ADVENT MISSION – PREPARE THE WAY WITH MARY:** Our guest speakers are Sister Philomena and Sister Rose Clare from the

Queenship of Mary. Join us on **Wednesday, December 13 and Thursday, December 14.** Mass at 6:30 pm followed by the Mission at 7 p.m. Our **PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE** will be on the last day of the Mission, Thursday, December 14.

**DONATIONS TOWARDS CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Special envelopes are available in the pews as well as on the tables at the entrance of the Church for donations towards Christmas flowers. Donations of \$20 or more will be issued a tax receipt if you enclose your name and address or envelope number. You are also welcome to bring Christmas flowers on the Fourth Sunday of Advent to the Church.

## Offering Envelopes



**2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** are available for pick up on the table at the back of the church. The envelopes are in alphabetical order. **PLEASE NOTE: In order to reduce cost and waste we have ordered 100 fewer envelopes**

**for 2024. If your envelope has number 401 or above, you have been assigned a new box number.** For parishioners who do not have envelopes, please call the parish office and an envelope will be assigned to you the following week. If you would like to support the parish through pre-Authorized payments, complete the forms found next to the Offertory Envelopes and drop it off to the office. Starting in January when you begin using your **Initial 2024 Offertory Envelopes**, please put your name and address on the back of the envelope to help us keep information up to date for tax receipts. **We would like to take this time to thank all our Parishioners for their generosity throughout 2023.**

**COFFEE SUNDAY – SUGAR COOKIES AND COFFEE** next weekend, **December 10** following the 8 and 10 am Masses. With snow forecast, our sugar cookie's theme will be reflected in the selection of cookies, including gluten-free. There will be some available for purchase. Come join us and spend time together while enjoying a drink and our homemade treats.

**CLUB 55:** You will not want to miss our **ANNUAL 'CHRISTMAS PARTY'** that will be held this coming **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 07**, following the 12:15 PM Mass. Our menu will feature Roast Chicken, with all the trimmings, potatoes, rolls and dessert, including home baked goodies. There will be live music as Anne Hurley and Jim Vidito return to play festive music and lead us in a sing-along. Please join us for what is sure to be an afternoon of fun and good food!

## Social Justice...

**CLUB 55'S WARM CLOTHING COLLECTION** will take place **December 16/17**. Your gently used winter clothing, in kids, and adult sizes, will be collected before all three Masses. They'll be given to children in our local schools as well as the Banff Ledbury Community Centre. Please place your clothing in the bins provided outside the Church entrance doors. Do not leave any clothing in the Church.

## COLLECTION REPORT

26 November 2023 – \$3,624.00 (env) / \$520.00 (loose)

~ THANK YOU for your generosity and support ~

**YOUR SUNDAY DONATIONS** are critical for the financial health of the Parish and make a difference!

There are several methods to support the Parish:

- Offertory Envelopes
- Pre-Authorized Payment (PAP). PAP forms may be found on the table at the entrance of the Church.
- Canada Helps on-line donations.
- E-transfer use: [office@holycrossparish.com](mailto:office@holycrossparish.com)

## PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENTS (PAP)

Did you know ... Once-a-month Pre-Authorized Payments (PAP) is the same as a cash or cheque offering for the collection basket! It helps us by providing a regular, dependable flow of contributions.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We thank all parishioners who have been requesting Mass Intentions. Unfortunately we cannot accept e-transfers for Mass Intentions as it affects our accounting system. E-transfers are for donations only. Please contact the parish office when requesting a Mass Intention. Thank you for your cooperation.

**NOTE:** If you have moved or changed your phone number, please call the parish office with your new contact information so that our records are updated.

## CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

**Regular weekend Masses:**

**Sat., Dec. 23 5:00 pm**

**Sun., Dec. 24 8:00 & 10:00 am**

**Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24**

4:00 p.m. Mass (Family Mass)

8:00 p.m. Mass (Anne Hurley's Choir)

**Christmas Day – Monday, December 25**

10:00 a.m. Mass (Heather Rice's choir)

**Regular weekend Masses:**

**Sat., Dec. 30 5:00 pm**

**Sun., Dec. 31 8:00 & 10:00 am**

**New Year's Eve – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Sunday, December 31**

7:00 p.m. **ADORATION**

7:30 p.m. Mass

**New Year's Day – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
Monday, January 01**

10:00 a.m. Mass

**Christmas and New Year's (Solemnity of Mary) are Holy Days of Obligation.**

**PLEASE NOTE: OUR CHRISTMAS BULLETIN** will cover a two-week period beginning on December 24. Deadline for submissions is on **Tuesday, December 19 by 12 noon**. Our **regular weekly bulletin** will resume on **January 07** and deadline for submission is on **Tuesday, January 02 by 12 noon**.

## Food For Thought ✝

*"Your yesterdays are gone. Your tomorrows are His. You have only today. This moment, I do the will of my Father. This moment I am obedient unto death. This moment I burn with a fire that knows neither end nor beginning, that must spill itself in the service of my neighbour. For I must prove to my Beloved that I love Him. Words are not enough! Words die before The Word. I can only prove my love for Him by loving my neighbour."* – Moments of Grace by Catherine Doherty

**Have you considered a gift in your WILL to provide for the faith life of future generations?  
IN YOUR GENEROSITY, please consider a donation or bequest to Holy Cross Parish.**

