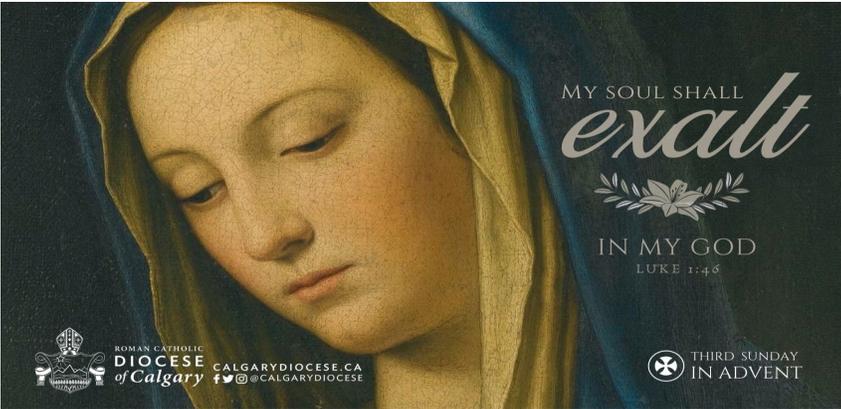




Sacred Heart Parish Strathmore, AB

3rd Sunday of Advent - December 13, 2020

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.



Weekend Mass Times

(Limited seating space, please pre-register at www.sacredhc.ca)

**Saturday 5:00 pm (Holy Rosary at 4:30 pm)
Sunday 10:00 am (Holy Rosary at 9:30 am)**

Holy Mass is held in the Holy Cross Collegiate (HCC) School Gym North Doors, 709 B - 2nd Street

Confession

**Sat. 4:15-4:45 pm (HCC Foods Room)
Sun. 9:15-9:45 am (HCC Foods Room)
Wed. 6-8:00 pm (Parish Office - By Appt.)**

Please call 403-934-2641

First Reading: Isaiah 61. 1-2a. 10-11
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24
Gospel: John 1. 6-8. 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the Prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



For joy and prayer in all things without ceasing.
We pray to the Lord.

Schedule for Christmas and New Year's Masses (HCC Gym)

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24): 4:00 pm | 7:00 pm | 10:00 pm
Christmas Day (Dec. 25): 10:00 am

Saturday (Dec. 26): 5:00 pm | Sunday (Dec. 27): 10:00 am

New Year's Eve (Dec. 31): 5:00 pm
New Year's Day (Jan. 1): 10:00 am

Registration for the above Masses will open on December 17th. Please register on-line (www.sacredhc.ca) or call the Parish Office.

Confession During Advent

Saturdays from 4:15-4:45 pm (HCC Foods Room)
Sundays from 9:15-9:45 am (HCC Foods Room)
Wednesdays 6-8:00 pm (Parish Office - By Appointment)

Gospel Reflection

In Advent, we celebrate that Jesus comes among us and, in time, we learn His mission is also ours. In the second reading, we are reminded to rejoice in all circumstances because God is with us, working in and through us. Right here, in the midst of the pandemic, our mission remains: we have been anointed to bring good news and new life to the world by carrying Jesus in our own care for others. What can you do to bring life to others this week? How are you speaking? Whom are you serving? What gifts and grace are you giving away? Prepare for Jesus this week by letting Him pour life through you for the sake of the world. And watch for the signs of His grace being poured out for you through others.

© Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops www.cccb.ca



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	Dec. 12	Parishioners
Sunday	Dec. 13	† Luke Loftus
Tuesday	Dec. 15	† Olga Yasinski
Wednesday	Dec. 16	† Jean Hudema
Thursday	Dec. 17	† Eugene Kathol
Saturday	Dec. 19	Parishioners
Sunday	Dec. 20	† Jonathan Van Verdegem

If you would like to book a Mass Intention for a week day, Fr. Tomy will offer up your intention while he celebrates daily Mass at the Rectory.

Due to the latest restrictions issued by the Government of Alberta, effective December 13th, the Parish office will be closed. The secretary, Lynn, will be working from home. Lynn will be available via email (secretary@sacredhc.ca) or by calling the parish office phone (403-934-2641). For emergencies only, please contact Fr. Tomy at 403-928-1151.

2021 Living With Christ - Sunday Missals

The 2021 Living with Christ Sunday Missals are available for purchase at the Parish Office. **The cost of each book is \$5.00.** Please bring the exact amount of money for the number of books you want as **we are not able to provide change.**

Financial News

TRUST IN THE LORD.

We are the body of Christ.
Each family is an essential part of this body.
Please continue to support our faith community.

Thank you, everyone, for your donations. Our parish relies on your Sunday offerings for maintenance and growth. By making your offertory gift, you are providing crucial support to care for our parish during this difficult time. If you would like to make a donation, there are several options:

- If you attend public Mass on Saturday/Sunday, there is an offertory basket located near the altar.
- You may mail or drop off donations at the Parish Office.
- Send an e-Transfer to sacredhc@shaw.ca and state within the message if your donation is for **Operations or Building Fund**.
- Sign up for regular monthly automatic direct debit payments. We will debit your account once per month (the first Wednesday). Please click [here](#) for a copy of the [Pre-Authorized Debit \(PAD\) Agreement form](#), complete/sign the form, and forward/bring it to the Parish Office. Please call the office if you would like us to mail you a copy of this form.
- Donations via credit card are available at www.sacredhc.ca/donate

May our generosity be an expression of gratitude for what God has given us.

Memorial Fund Donations

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please make cheques payable to:

Sacred Heart Parish

and earmark your donation with the note:

**For the Building Fund - In Memory of
{loved one's name}**

You will receive a charitable tax receipt for your donation.

Jonathan Van Verdegem was a very faithful and dedicated member of our Sacred Heart Catholic Parish. He served as an altar server right up until his passing. We feel the building of our new Catholic Church was in the foremost part of his thoughts. We will continue to receive donations in his memory.



Please make your donation as indicated above:

**For the Building Fund -
in Memory of Jonathan Van Verdegem.**

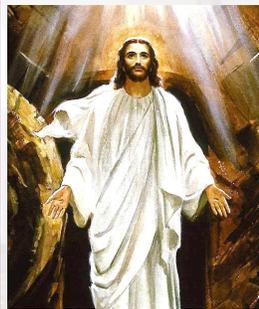
*Eternal rest grant unto them,
oh Lord, and let perpetual light
shine upon them.*

*May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.*

Parish Finances for the Month of November, 2020

Operations	Monthly Actual	Monthly Budget	Quarter Ending Sept/2020
All Income	\$12,731.85	\$17,197.20	\$82,049.60
All Expenses	\$11,379.18	\$18,903.66	\$109,107.49
Surplus/(Deficit)			(\$27,057.89)
Building Fund			
All Monies Received (Excluding Pledges)	\$12,631.00		
Cornerstone Pledge Campaign	Commitment	Received	Year to Date
2019	\$777,205.00	-	\$617,126.91
2020	\$483,495.00	\$35,895.72	210,975.92
2021	\$574,650.00	-	-
Central Fund Savings		Together in Action	
as at Nov. 30, 2020	\$1,300,083.04	Goal for 2020	\$13,387.00
Grocery Cards Sold	\$3,300.00	Received	\$6,727.80

Mass Intentions for Your Loved Ones.



If you would like to have a Mass said in remembrance of your loved one, we have Mass Intention envelopes available at the Parish Office. You may stop by and pick-up one or more, fill out the information on the outside of the envelope and either bring or mail it to the parish office or place it in the weekly offertory basket at Mass. We will contact you and arrange a date for the Mass.

2021 Offertory Envelopes

The 2021 boxes of offertory envelopes are available for pickup at the Parish Office. If you are not signed up for envelopes but would like to, please contact the parish office. Offertory envelopes are an easy way for the office to track your donations and will ensure your donations are included in your tax-deductible receipts at year end.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

December 13, 2020

WATCH

SAINT TERESA OF ÁVILA: A STUDY IN PERSEVERANCE

Both St. John of the Cross and his dear friend St. Teresa of Ávila lived heroic lives of prayer. In honor of these spiritual masters, enjoy this film depicting the Carmelite way of life and the virtue of perseverance.



To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



If you are new to Strathmore and Sacred Heart Parish, a warm welcome to you and your family. If you would like to register with our Parish or receive information about activities that are happening with our Church and the Diocese, please contact the Parish Office at secretary@sacredhc.ca or 403-934-2641. We can also set you up with a Numbered Offering Envelope, this will ensure that your donations are included in your tax-deductible receipts at year end.

Parish & Diocesan Activities

Fundraising Events Happening in Our Parish

Grocery Cards Angie Wolper would like to remind everyone that grocery cards are still available for both SOBEYS and CO-OP grocery stores. These make a great Christmas gift! A percentage of the grocery card purchase price is donated to the Building Fund. Please contact **Angie** at **403-934-0468** to make arrangements for purchase and pickup.

Bottle Drive We are collecting refundable containers to support the Building Fund for our new Sacred Heart Church. If you have refundable containers that you would like to donate, please call **Ron Johnson** at **403-333-2213** and arrangements will be made for curb-side pickup.

Sunday Missal Covers One of our parishioners, Robin Fulton, has hand-crafted some lovely Sunday missal covers. There is no set price but a median donation of \$30 or according to your means, is suggested. If you want to have a look at the covers, we have posted a photo of each cover that is available on the Sacred Heart Parish website (www.sacredhc.ca/fundraising-activities). Please contact the parish office if you are interested in purchasing one. All money raised will go towards the Building Fund.

Year-End Giving

In order to receive 2020 tax receipts for donations for all parishes, Catholic Pastoral Centre or its ministries, they must be **received in the Parishes or the Diocese by Dec. 31, 2020 at midnight** (cash, credit card or online) OR **post marked by December 31 (cheques)**. For more information about the guidelines for year-end giving, visit <https://www.catholicyc.ca/yearendgiving.html>

If you have any questions about these deadlines, please call **the Catholic Pastoral Centre (403-218-5545)** or **email finance@calgarydiocese.ca**

On behalf of the Bishop, and all who will benefit from your gift, thank you again. We commit to using your gift as designated.

Stricter COVID-19 Restrictions

New stricter restrictions have been introduced by the Government of Alberta in the effort to bend the curve on the number of confirmed cases. To read the latest Memorandum from the Diocese, please [click here](#).

A Blessing for Your Christmas Manger and Nativity Scene

Once you have your Nativity Scene all set up, take some time to ask for God's blessing as a family. Together, you can say [this prayer](#).

What's Happening in the Diocese of Calgary during the Advent Season?

Find retreats, parish missions and prayer events during the Advent Season on our website: <https://www.catholicyc.ca/advent.html>

Mission Mexico - December 12/13

Mission Mexico began in Alberta in the year 2000 as a Jubilee project by St. Mary's Parish in Cochrane, Alberta, under the leadership of Fr. Fred Monk, who had decided to raise \$100,000 to build an orphanage in Tlapa, Mexico. Soon, they were joined by other parishes in the Diocese of Calgary and Bishop Emeritus Frederick Henry declared December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mission Mexico Day in the Diocese. Students and parishioners everywhere were invited to join in the work of Mission Mexico by giving a loonie and efforts continue to this day. Donations to this outreach project have provided greater access to education and self-sustaining projects to the people in the mountainous state of Guerrero, Mexico.

In celebration of 20 years in partnership and in spite of the challenges we are facing, we are encouraged to engage in a special time of prayer, solidarity, and action for the work and ministry of Mission Mexico, for "love does not go on lockdown and close itself away from the poor and vulnerable at their time of great need." (Caritas Message for World Day of the Poor).



- ◆ Letter from Bishop McGrattan for 2020 Mission Mexico Sunday - [Read Letter Here](#)
- ◆ There will be a **Separate Collection** on the Third Sunday of Advent (**Dec. 12/13**) for Mission Mexico.

A World Day of Prayer for the Consecrated Life

Save the date! Please mark **Feb. 6/7, 2021** in your calendars. It will be the World Day of Prayer for the Consecrated Life. More information to follow in January.

Parish & Diocesan Activities

Sacred Heart Academy - 2021-2022 Little Flower Pre-K Program

Our inquiry and registration process for 2021 – 2022 Little Flower Pre-Kindergarten is now open. Please go to the following link to start your registration process: <http://www.sacredheartacademy.ca/Registration.php>

We are notifying our SHA Families and Parish first through this notification. We are limited in space due to ratio requirements, so it is on a first-come-first-serve basis.

2021 - 2022 Little Flower Pre-K Program

- Days:** Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings
Time: 8:25 am to 11:20 am
Age: 4 year old program. Must be 4 by December 31st, 2021
Fees: \$150.00 per month per student (PAD form which will be sent in separate email)
Plus \$60.00 Program Registration fee for all school supplies, snacks and field trips through the year (PAD form which will be sent in separate email)

* There will be a limit of 12 students accepted

** We will start a waitlist and accept 8 more children after the first 12 are registered. We cannot exceed 20.

PLEASE NOTE OUR REGISTRATION PROCESS:

We must receive all the completed REQUIRED documents and payments, for your enrollment to be completed and your position secured.

- STEP 1:** Complete an Online Inquiry at <http://www.sacredheartacademy.ca/Registration.php>
STEP 2: Complete an Online Registration form (you will receive an email link for this)
STEP 3: Complete the Supplementary Little Flower Registration form (you will receive in a separate email)
STEP 4: Complete the Payor's PAD Agreement for the \$150.00 monthly fee, beginning on September 1, 2021 and one -time \$60.00 registration fee, withdrawn on June 1, 2021 (you will receive in a separate email)
STEP 5: Make sure that the following are uploaded with the Online Registration form:
* Birth Certificate (required)
* Any Court or Custody Orders (if applicable)
* Any Citizenship/Landed Immigrant/Work Visa Information (if applicable)

We must have 12 students for our pre-kindergarten program to run.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Van Bavel at pvanbavel@redeemeer.ab.ca

Year of Saint Joseph

With the Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from Dec. 8, 2020, to Dec. 8, 2021. [Read more](#)

Read *Patris corde* (With a Father's heart) [here](#)

The Apostolic Penitentiary also issued a decree granting special indulgences for the duration of the special year to celebrate the anniversary and "to perpetuate the entrustment of the whole Church to the powerful patronage of the Custodian of Jesus." Conditions for the plenary indulgence:

- The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the Pope's intentions) to Christians who, with a spirit detached from any sin, participate in the Year of St. Joseph on these occasions and manners indicated by the Apostolic Penitentiary.
- The plenary indulgence is granted to those who will meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Lord's Prayer, or take part in a Spiritual Retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph. "St. Joseph, an authentic man of faith, invites us", the decree reads, "to rediscover our filial relationship with the Father, to renew fidelity to prayer, to listen and correspond with profound discernment to God's will."
- The indulgence can also be obtained by those who, following St. Joseph's example, will perform a spiritual or corporal work of mercy. St. Joseph "encourages us to rediscover the value of silence, prudence and loyalty in carrying out our duties," the decree notes.
- The recitation of the Holy Rosary in families and among engaged couples is another way of obtaining indulgences, in order that "all Christian families may be stimulated to recreate the same atmosphere of intimate communion, love and prayer that was in the Holy Family."
- Everyone who entrusts their daily activity to the protection of St. Joseph, and every faithful who invokes the intercession of St. Joseph so that those seeking work can find dignifying work can also obtain the plenary indulgence. On 1 May 1955, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph "with the intent that the dignity of work be recognized by all, and that it inspires social life and laws, based on the fair distribution of rights and duties."
- The plenary indulgence is also granted to the faithful who will recite the Litany to St. Joseph (for the Latin tradition), or the Akathistos to St. Joseph (for the Byzantine tradition), or any other prayer to St. Joseph proper to the other liturgical traditions, for the persecuted Church ad intra and ad extra, and for the relief of all Christians suffering all forms of persecution. Because, the decree notes, "the flight of the Holy Family to Egypt shows us that God is there where man is in danger, where man suffers, where he runs away, where he experiences rejection and abandonment."

Parish & Diocesan Activities

New AHS Restrictions and How These Will Affect our Parish

New stricter restrictions have been introduced by the Government of Alberta in an effort to bend the curve on the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases. These restrictions will affect our Parish and **will take effect on Sunday, December 13, 2020**. Following are some of the changes that will be implemented:

- * Faith services are limited to 15% of fire code occupancy for in-person attendance. We have adjusted our number of allowable attendees at Mass to 83 (this number includes clergy, volunteers and parishioners). Please continue to register online at <https://sacredhc.ca/mass-times>. If we find that Masses are becoming full, we will look at adding an additional Mass(es). Also, physical distancing between households must be maintained (we are no longer able to seat cohort families together). We are only able to seat people who reside at the same mailing address, together.
- * **Starting December 13th, the Parish office will be closed.** The secretary, Lynn, will be working from home. Lynn will be available via email (secretary@sacredhc.ca) or by calling the parish office phone (403-934-2641). For emergencies only, please contact Fr. Tomy at 403-928-1151.

Celebrating Public Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Strathmore

Now that we are in Stage 2 of the relaunch for both the Diocese and the province, and with the help from volunteers, we are able to offer Mass at Sacred Heart Church.

Mass will be offered on **Saturday at 5:00 pm** and **Sunday at 10:00 am**. Seating space is limited so everyone must pre-register, individually, before attending Mass. To sign-up, please visit the homepage of www.sacredhc.ca and click on the button that says '**Mass Registration**'. This will take you to the signup page. Locate the Mass that you want to attend, click the button beside it and fill out the required information. If you have questions about how to sign up, please contact the parish office.

In addition to pre-registering for Mass, following are some **guidelines** and **what you can expect when attending Mass**:

Guidelines from the Diocese of Calgary/Sacred Heart Parish:

- Masses are to be celebrated simply and reverently within a shorter time.
- Procedures will be followed to limit possible exposure to the contagion.
- Alberta Health Services require that a record of all attendees and volunteers and their contact information be kept for contact tracing purposes.
- **Attendees and volunteers 65 years of age or older and individuals with chronic medical conditions are encouraged to stay safe by avoiding public gatherings but are not prohibited from attending Holy Mass if they so choose. You do so at your own risk.**
- **All attendees and volunteers are expected to wear non-medical masks and should bring their own masks.**
- Anyone who has even the slightest symptoms or feelings of sickness must remain at home. (i.e. Fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or runny nose.)
- Bathrooms will be closed except for health emergencies as it is impractical to maintain a sanitary washroom that is constantly in use.
- Please note that volunteers are automatically given a seat to attend Holy Mass. For volunteer job descriptions and to sign up to help out, please [click here](#).

What to Expect When Attending Mass

Guiding Principles: Sacred Heart Parish will protect the health of all our Parishioners. Social distancing will be exercised for the entire Mass event. Bathrooms will be closed except for health emergencies as it is impractical to maintain a sanitary washroom that is constantly in use. We anticipate a 35 to 45-minute Mass duration dependent upon the number of Communicants. Children will remain with their parents or guardians at all times.

The following procedures will be practiced for Mass:

- You **MUST** pre-register individually online via Parish Website by **Friday at 12:00 Noon** to attend.
- You **MUST** arrive 15-30 minutes before the start of Mass.
- A volunteer will confirm your attendance information at the door.
- You will receive hand sanitizer at the door.
- You will be escorted to your seat by an Usher.
- The doors will be locked at the commencement of Mass for the duration of Mass.
- An Usher will guide you to receive Holy Communion.
- When Mass ends an Usher will direct a prompt dismissal of attendees.
- Upon final exit the church space will be sanitized.

We are still in need of more volunteers to be able to continue offering Mass. If you are able to help, please sign up at www.sacredhc.ca/volunteer-sign-up

Parish & Diocesan Activities

Parish Sacraments



Please call or email the parish office if you have any questions

Baptism:

Baptisms are set for the last Saturday of the month. **Please call the Parish Office 2 months prior to your chosen date for more information about Registration and Baptism Preparation.**

Marriage Preparation:

Please call or email the office to make an appointment with Fr. Tomy at least four months prior to your wedding date. Please do not finalize dates before speaking with the Pastor.

Reconciliation/Confession:

Confession is available on **Saturdays, from 4:15-4:45 pm** and **Sundays, from 9:15-9:45 am** in the Holy Cross Collegiate Foods Room or at the Parish office, by appointment. Please contact the parish office.

First Reconciliation/Holy Communion:

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Sacramental Preparation classes have been scheduled from **October 2020 to June 2021**, and are underway. Classes are being held **the first Wednesday of each month from 5:45-6:45 pm**. Registration for 2020-2021 is now closed. Registration for 2021-2022 will begin in September, 2021.

Confirmation:

Confirmation Preparation classes are taught every two years (ie. 2018, 2020, 2022). If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Brent Wiley at confirmation@sacredhc.ca or contact the Parish Office.

RCIA, RCIY, RCIC:

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults program runs yearly from Fall to Easter of the following year. If interested in attending, please call or email the parish office to speak with Deacon Paul Coderre, before the end of August.

Parish Office - Contact Information

Office Hours:

Wed - Fri 9-4:00 pm
Lunch Break: Noon-1:00 pm



Pastor: Fr. Tomy Manjaly | pastor@sacredhc.ca
Bookkeeper: Donna Johnson | bookkeeper@sacredhc.ca
Secretary: Lynn Dumont | secretary@sacredhc.ca
Office Phone: 403-934-2641
Fr. Tomy's Mobile: 403-928-1151 (Emergencies Only Please)
Mailing Address: 23 Strathmore Lakes Way
Strathmore, AB T1P 1Y9

Deacon: Roger Nelson | deacon.roger@sacredhc.ca
Deacon: Michael Thompson | deacon.michael@sacredhc.ca
Deacon: Paul Coderre | deacon.paul@sacredhc.ca
Website: www.sacredhc.ca
Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/sacredhc.strathmore
Diocesan Website: www.catholicycyc.ca

Parish Ministries and Organizations

Altar Servers: Tomas Rochford or Krysta VanVerdegem | altar.servers@sacredhc.ca
Building Committee: Paul O'Leary | building.committee@sacredhc.ca
Catholic Women's League: Emily Rochford | cwl@sacredhc.ca
Children's Liturgy: Meaghan Patterson | childrens.liturgy@sacredhc.ca
Choir Liaison: Emily Rochford | music.ministry@sacredhc.ca
Confirmation Preparation: Brent Wiley | confirmation@sacredhc.ca
Extraordinary Ministers: Lynn Dumont | liturgy@sacredhc.ca
Finance Council: Jim Chisholm | finance.council@sacredhc.ca
First Communion Preparation: Emily Rochford/Katie Jalbert | first.communion@sacredhc.ca
Fundraising Committee: Nettie Hendricks | fundraising@sacredhc.ca
Gym Setup: Todd Gionet | gym.setup@sacredhc.ca
Knights of Columbus: Grand Knight Derek Donais | knights@sacredhc.ca
Lectors: Robin Fulton/Pamela Glover/Sarah Goodfellow | lectors@sacredhc.ca
Parish Council: Tomas Rochford/Brent Wiley | parish.council@sacredhc.ca
Pastoral Care: Diane Van Bavel | pastoral.care@sacredhc.ca
Pledge Campaign: Paul O'Leary | pledge.campaign@sacredhc.ca
Prayer Chain: Laurie Stephens | prayerchain@sacredhc.ca
RCIA: Deacon Paul Coderre | deacon.paul@sacredhc.ca
Sacristans: Lynn Dumont | liturgy@sacredhc.ca

Congratulations!

To the following Parishioners who recently received the Sacrament of:

Baptism

Augustus Thomas Michael Schultz

Remember that God's love will always be there to comfort you, guide you and bless you.