



Sacred Heart Parish

Strathmore, AB

Parish Office Located at: 23 Strathmore Lakes Way, Strathmore, AB T1P 1L7 403-934-2641



Masses for Christmas and New Year's

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
Saturday (Jan. 2):	5:00 pm
Sunday (Jan. 3):	10:00 am

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

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) - December 24th/25th, 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 9. 2-4, 6-7 | **Second Reading:** Titus 2. 11-14 | **Gospel:** Luke 2. 10-11

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an Angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the Angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

When the Angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

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

Gospel Reflection

The opening of the first reading has washed over us year after year: The people who wander in darkness have seen a great light. While we walk through this strange year with much darkness, we remain the people who have seen the light that is Jesus. Even when our vision grows dim, or we strain to feel Jesus near, the truth is we have seen Him and known Him, and His light dispels the darkness. We celebrate the coming of Jesus as people who know and love the light of God, and who trust that Light will find us eventually, no matter how deep the darkness. May we delight in the light and life of Jesus, come to us now.

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - December 27th, 2020

First Reading: Genesis 15. 1-6; 17. 3b-5, 15-16; 21. 1-7 | **Second Reading:** Hebrews 11. 8, 11-12, 17-19 | **Gospel:** Luke 2. 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

When Mary and Joseph had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

Gospel Reflection

The opening lines of Colossians put forward a beautiful reminder of our call to family life. We are invited to put on compassion and kindness, humility and gentleness, patience and forgiveness. The reading assumes we will fail and try again, learning to love by loving. Our families are a gift of God, drawing us into the practices of love, filling us with opportunities to practise virtues. Celebrate with your family this week the ways by which you love each other well. And name an area or two in which you'd like God to help you grow as a family.

Parish News

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God - January 1st, 2021

First Reading: Numbers 6. 22-27 | Second Reading: Galatians 4. 4-7 | Gospel: Luke 2. 16-21

The shepherds went with haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the Angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

Gospel Reflection

On this feast of Mary, Mother of God, almost nothing is actually said about Mary. The first reading focuses on God's blessing of the people of Israel. The second shows us how that blessing will come about through Mary in Christ. In the Gospel, we see Mary's response -- to treasure all these things in her heart. God's blessing is for all of the people, and so we too are blessed members of God's holy family. He desires to use each of us in our own way, to carry Jesus into the world so all might find a place in the family of God. May we hear and treasure God's call for our lives.

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord - January 3rd, 2021

First Reading: Isaiah 60. 1-6 | Second Reading: Ephesians 3. 2-3a, 5-6 | Gospel: Matthew 2. 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the Prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Gospel Reflection

In the first reading, Isaiah reminds the Israelites exiled in Babylon that they, not the fallen kingdom, are God's glory. When the Magi bring gifts for Jesus, they celebrate the One who will redeem God's people. The second reading reminds us that the promises made to the Israelites have been offered through Jesus to all people, Jews and Gentiles. The Magi -- or Wise Men and traditionally also kings -- point us to the King who longs to love and save each and every one of us, to draw us into the divinity of God. What a gift it is to discover we are nothing more or less than the beloved children of God.

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Parish Office Hours During Christmas and New Year's

The office staff will be taking a break from **December 24th to January 5th**. The Secretary and Bookkeeper will resume work on:

January 6th, 2021

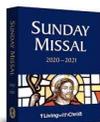
Christmas Gift to the Building Fund

Every contribution from our families and friends brings us closer to worshipping in our new Sacred Heart Church. If you would like to make a donation to our New Church Building Fund, there are Christmas Gift envelopes available as you enter for Mass. Complete the information on the outside of the envelope and we will issue a charitable tax receipt at year-end. Thank you for your generous donations.

2021 Living With Christ - Sunday Missals

The 2021 Living with Christ Sunday Missals are available as you enter for Mass. We would rather see these Missals used than go to waste. **Please take a Missal and if you want to put a donation for your missal into the collection basket, you may do so.**

Thank you.



Year-End Giving

Please keep in mind that if you wish to receive 2020 tax receipts for your donations to the parish, the 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, 2020 (cheques)**. For more information about the guidelines for year-end giving, please visit the Diocese of Calgary website or call the Pastoral Centre.

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



Greetings from our Pastor

Dear Brothers and sisters,

It is four months since I joined our parish, the Sacred Heart Church in Strathmore. When I arrived, I had a few concerns, especially celebrating Mass without a church building. For I came from Medicine Hat and had celebrated all sacraments in the most beautiful church; "the gem of our Diocese" as Bishop Frederick Henry used to say. But at the very start of the weekend Masses on August 1st, I observed the vitality and unity within the community of Sacred Heart Church. I have experienced a lot of joys and happiness from then on, as I work with you as your Pastor. There was no time left for me to regret but only to celebrate my priesthood as God's gift given for ministering the people of God. Time spent at the church office or at schools celebrating Masses and Liturgy; playing some sports with students or interacting with them; visiting the sick in a senior home or at their residence; having a dinner or a coffee with the families; just chatting and visiting with people; and above all, celebrating the sacraments for my parishioners, brings to me a tremendous joy of good feelings and gladness. Of course, as you all wish, I also wish to have our church built sooner than later. It is thirteen years since we have been celebrating Masses in the school gym; and thanks to Christ the Redeemer school administration for providing us the use of this facility to celebrate our Masses. I know you have been working so hard for so long to build our new church and I believe that God will reward you for the love you have for Him and for His church. Never give up and I believe that in the near future with all of your generous financial support and prayers, we will have a beautiful church built to celebrate all sacraments and to facilitate all our spiritual and social needs. Thanks to all for your timely and generous support. I am grateful to you for the love and support you give me as your Pastor and I am glad that I am able to serve you with the help of the Lord. I am praying for you at every Mass I celebrate.

Christmas is drawing near. Traditionally, we see Christmas as a time of peace and joy, a time to celebrate with family, friends and loved ones. We do hope that your Christmas will have an abundance of peace, joy and celebration. But I am afraid that such joyful celebrations may not be possible for many this year due the effects of COVID-19. We are restricted to our own home and space to protect ourselves and others. Perhaps some of you have lost your loved ones since last Christmas, or you may be overburdened by financial worries, health issues, loss of your job or business, family problems or for many other issues which will curtail your freedom to celebrate Christmas as before. Despite whole hardships that we face today, we need to remember one thing, that God has not abandoned us for His name is **Immanuel** which means **GOD IS WITH US**. God himself came near on that first Christmas, not distancing from us, but came down to be closer to his loving people as a light shining in the darkness. Jesus promised that he will be with us until the end of time.

May the love of Christ fill your home and life and cause each day of yours to release countless blessings for you. Merry Christmas!

Fr. Tomy Manjaly