

ASCENSION CATHOLIC PARISH



JANUARY 2021



Sharing the Spirit Together in Christ

1100 Berkshire Blvd NW
Calgary, AB T3K 3M3
Phone 403.275.2240
Fax 403.274.3969
www.ascensionparish.ca

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
9:30 am — 3:00 pm
By appointment only

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: **Fr. Avinash Colaco**
Associate: **Fr. Adrian Martens**
Deacon: **Patrick Woo**
Resource: **Sharron Robinson**
Sacraments: **Jenn Pashula**
Bookkeeper: **Nora Alzamora**

Check out inside ...

- ***Online Auction Update***
- ***PPC Update***
- ***Finance Update***
- ***Confirmation Registration***
- ***2020 Tax Receipt Info***
- ***2021 Missal Sales***

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Happy New Year! Fr. Adrian, Deacon Patrick and the Staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your support, prayers, gifts, cards, treats and baking we received over the Christmas season. We are truly blessed to be a part of a Parish that is supportive to us in so many ways.

As we have entered into this new year, we see that life has not yet returned to normal. Perhaps we thought that with the end of 2020, came the end of the pandemic and the restrictions. But that's not the case. Recently, the term 'new-normal' has become popular. The term of course is in reference to the pandemic and how it will change our lives going forward. But maybe, this term could be used in our own spiritual lives as well. Perhaps the events of the past year could be viewed as a wake-up call from our Lord. Maybe He is asking us to reflect on the way we have been living our lives up to this point. Maybe He's calling us to seek out a 'new-normal' in our spiritual life.

Life is full of challenges and adversity. If we don't have these experiences, we don't grow and we tend to take things for granted. God is always calling us to a life lived in Jesus as our guide and it is not an easy one.

Are we ready to take on that 'new-normal' or are we just ok with going back to our previous ways? If we've learned anything during this pandemic, it is that we are not in control. As Catholics, we believe that our life on earth is a preparation for an Eternal life with God. During the Feast of the Epiphany, we learned that the wise men followed the star of Bethlehem to find Jesus, but after giving their gifts to Him, they were told to go back a different way to avoid King Herod. God is sharing this same message with us today. He is inviting us to go back a different way, to turn away from evil. He is asking us to make the right choices with the help of the Holy Spirit.

We have experienced unprecedented times this past year, but when Jesus was born in that lowly stable over 2000 years ago, those were no doubt unprecedented times as well. Are we willing to trust in the Lord as Mary, Joseph and the Wise Men did? Are we willing to change the direction and discover a new way or a 'new-normal'? A life lived in Jesus is not promised to be an easy one, but it is promised to be rewarding. As we are aware that the theme for this year is service at our Parish, let us challenge ourselves to seek God's purpose for us, by asking the Holy Spirit to come into our hearts and allow Him to work in and through us.

May God continue to bless you and your families in 2021 with peace, joy and love.

Peace,
Fr. Avi

ASCENSION PARISH ONLINE AUCTION

March 12 - 27, 2021

All funds raised will be directed to the Building Fund

AUCTION DONATION ITEMS URGENTLY NEEDED!

The Auction Committee has been working on this event since November and we have reached out to over 250 businesses for support. To date we have secured **50 of the 100 items** we are looking for.

For this initiative to be a success, we need help from our Parish community to reach out to your network of family, friends and colleagues to help us secure auction items.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- * *Do you know anyone who owns a business that might donate an item or a service?*
- * *Do you know someone who has a vacation property that they rent out and would be willing to donate a stay?*
- * *Do you know a celebrity that might be willing to donate their time to do a zoom call with a lucky bidder?*
- * *Do you know someone who would purchase an item and donate it to the auction?*

We are looking for 100 new items including electronics, gift cards, services (landscaping, oil changes, cleaning, Christmas light installation), staycations, barbeque, wine baskets, etc.

We are also looking for 5 unique experiences to auction off.

THE DEADLINE FOR DONATING ITEMS IS FEBRUARY 1ST

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL (PPC) UPDATE

Parish Pastoral Council would like to wish you and your families a very Happy New Year. We are looking forward to continue to serve this Parish in 2021. In November 2020, a new executive team was formed. The Chairperson is Rodel Cenabre, Vice-Chair is Nerissa Menezes and the Secretary is Debbie Parsons. In addition, we are pleased and excited to welcome our new PPC members, Connie Raz, Nalini Plesche, Eneyo Eyo, and Fernando Davila.

We are very grateful for the service and commitment of our previous members: Sandra Will-Krile (previous Chairperson), Dianna Gonzales, Andrew Harich, Collins Omondiaogbe, William Wei, and Keagan Vaz. We sincerely thank them for their dedication to our Parish.

Beginning in September 2020, PPC has been meeting every two weeks to keep up with the Parish events and to be able to support our Pastor with decision making for our Parish. Starting January 2021, we will revert back to monthly meetings.

A couple of projects PPC worked alongside with our Pastor and office staff included:

- Delivering donation envelopes to our Parishioners at home. This helped reduce the costs for our Parish.
- The PPC prepared the Advent Journey in line with the Diocese theme of Pray, Act, Give and Prepare. We also collaborated with Fr. Avi and Fr. Adrian to live stream an Advent Mission with the topic "The New Saints and Service".

The Council is now using Flocknote as the main means of communication among ministries and for the parishioners who would like to receive our Parish newsletter. Although PPC will no longer email the newsletters, we will continue to be the liaison for each community. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

We began the theme of service this year and we are currently working on activities for 2021. Stay tuned! We look forward to having your support.

FINANCE UPDATE

2020 changed our Parish activities, ministry work, and Mass attendance. Changes included limited Mass attendance, Mass streaming on the 'Net, reduced staffing, newsletters instead of bulletins, and switching from weekly envelopes to preauthorized donations. Our ministries are now resuming activities online and we are working to reconnect with Parish families over all social media channels.

In the first week of January, the Parish will commence paying its monthly loan payment for the renovations ("mortgage") and Diocesan Assessment to the Diocese.

Next month, Finance Council will be reporting on our financial activities for 2020 and an update the progress on payments on our mortgage debt, with some good news to report. As well, the office is working to prepare the tax receipts for 2020 donations to go out in February.

It is our plan going forward to provide a monthly graphic of donations and how they were used for operations and debt paydown. This reporting on payments made on our mortgage debt will help everyone understand how our mortgage will be paid out over time, and how we can all help.

Your Gifts to the Parish:

	Jan- Dec 2020
Collections - Operating	\$647,135
Government Grants	\$23,027
Total General Collections	\$670,162

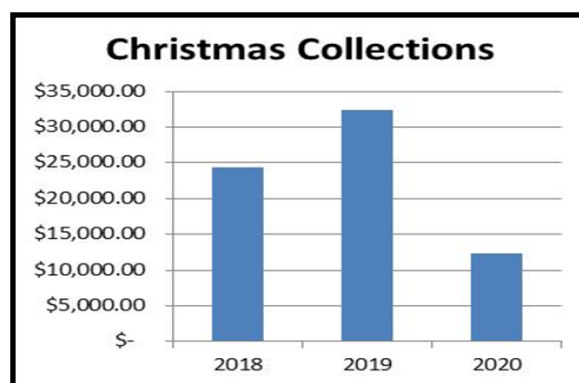
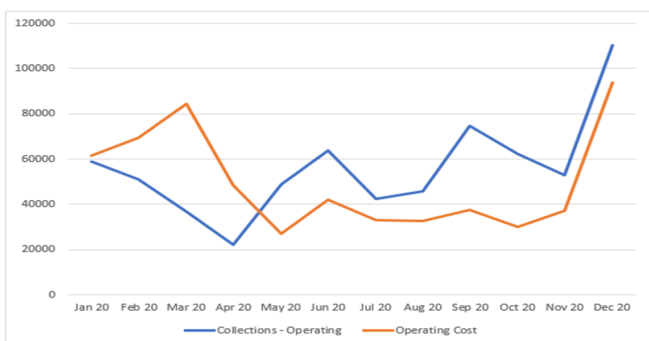
Operating Cost	\$571,638
Diocese Assessment/Other	\$24,921
Over/(Shortfall)YTD Op Cost	\$73,603

Building Fund/Donor Wall Collections	\$547,524
Interest Paid on Central Fund Loan	\$153,729

Diocesan Annual Campaign

Together in Action Collections	\$41,983
2020 Target	\$52,046
Remaining Towards Goal	\$10,063

The following graphic shows the level of Christmas donations over the past 3 years. Please note that this only captures the collections made at Mass. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place during the Christmas season, our Christmas collections were lower than previous years. There were addition online and pre-authorized donations.



SACRAMENT UPDATE

Confirmation means to make a covenant with God. The confirmand says, *“Yes, I believe in you God; give me your Holy Spirit, so that I might belong entirely to you and never be separated from you.”* “I want to witness to you though out my whole life, in words and deeds, on good days and bad.” God in return says, *“Yes, I believe in you too, my child.”* “I will give you my Spirit, my very self.” “I will never separate myself from you.”

We invite those in Grades 6 to Grade 12 who would like to be Confirmed to register now on our website www.ascensionparish.ca/confirmation. Registration is open until the end of January.

First Reconciliation will take place this month, for 164 students.

RCIA is continuing for our 32 Catechumens and Candidates, and they will receive their Sacraments at Easter.

**If you have any Sacramental questions or inquiries, please contact sacraments@ascensionparish.ca.
For Baptism inquiries please contact baptism@ascensionparish.ca.**

MASS TIMES

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday: 9:00am

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5:00pm & 7:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am; 10:00am; 12:00pm & 4:00pm

Please Note:

Registration is required to attend Mass in person. The link to register is on our Parish website. Dispensation from the Bishop to come to Holy Mass in person is still in place. Currently, our attendance is limited to 15% of our fire code capacity.

Live Stream Mass

Monday - Saturday: 9:00am

Sunday: 10:00am

MINISTRY CONTACTS

Volunteer Resource: Sharron Robinson | resource@ascensionparish.ca

Safety Coordinator Lead: Christine Russell | apvolunteer@shaw.ca

SACRAMENTS

Sacramental Preparation: Jenn Pashula | sacraments@ascensionparish.ca

Baptism Preparation: Jenn Pashula | baptism@ascensionparish.ca

Marriage Prep: William Abenes | marriageprepatascension@gmail.com

RCIA: Rob Kehrig | robkehrig@gmail.com

MINISTRIES

Parish Council: Rodel Cenabre | rodelcenabre@gmail.com

Finance Council: Christina Dao | c_dc_d@hotmail.com

Building Fund: Mark Holland | markholland@shaw.ca

Special Events Fundraising: Holly Davidson | hollyd@telus.net

Art & Environment: Maria San Miguel | let@shaw.ca

Ex-ord. Min. of Holy Communion: Nadia Oliverio | nadia.oliverio@shaw.ca

Liturgical Ministries: Nadia Oliverio | nadia.oliverio@shaw.ca

Lectors: Andrew Harich | harich0307@gmail.com

Music Ministry (Interim): DeeDee Hedley | ddhedley@shaw.ca

Sacristy Care: James Chuah | jameschuah10248@gmail.com

Assist with Sacraments: DeeDee Hedley | ddhedley@shaw.ca

Ushers: Richard Svoboda | ricsvo@shaw.ca

Weekday Masses: Connie Raz | connieraz@gmail.com

Ascension Communication Team (ACT) | samandrafo@shaw.ca

LAY MINISTRIES

Catholic Women's League: Twila Tayfel | cwl.ascension@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus: Phil Fitzgerald | gk10065@kofc.ab.ca

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Davina Janssens | ssvp.ascension@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Hamper Request | 587.755.3855

CONFESSIONS

By appointment only

(please contact our Priests directly)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the office @ 403.275.2240.

When prompted, press 2 for

Fr. Avinash, press 3 for Fr. Adrian.

Stay up to date by visiting our Social Media

www.facebook.com/ascensionparishcalgary

<https://twitter.com/RCAscensionYYC>

<https://www.instagram.com/ascensioncatholic/>

FLOCKNOTE

Keep in touch with us via email and text message!

Text **ACPYC** to **514.900.0130**

or connect with us online at

ascensioncatholicparish.flocknote.com

Sign up today & stay connected!

2021 MISSALS STILL AVAILABLE

If you have not yet purchased your 2021 Missal, they are available at the Parish Office during office hours. at a cost of \$5.00.

2021 DONATION ENVELOPES

Parish Council has now completed delivery of the 2021 donation envelopes. If you did not receive yours, please arrange for pickup during office hours.

2020 TAX RECEIPTS

Donation receipts for 2020 are ready!

Options for pick-up are:

After Weekend Masses:

January 16 & 17

January 23 & 24

Also available at the office:

January 18 - February 3

9:30 - 1:00 pm