

ASCENSION CATHOLIC PARISH

December 24 - 25, 2022



*Sharing the Spirit
Together in Christ*



MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Word became
flesh, and we have
seen His Glory.

(John 1.14)

MASS TIMES

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Saturday: 9:00am

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 5:00pm & 7:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am; 10:00am;

12:00pm & 4:00pm

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. John Gannon

Associate: Fr. JP Luxbacher

Vicar: Fr. Adrian Martens (Sundays)

Deacon: Patrick Woo

Admin Assist: Jenn Pashula

Sacraments : Linda Hengen

Bookkeeper: Nora Alzamora

Resource: Connie Raz

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday—Saturday

9:30am - 4:00pm

Closed for Lunch 12pm - 1pm

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Ascension Catholic Parish is a community of disciples of Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord, guided on our journey by the Holy Spirit to further the Kingdom of God, through committed Worship, Catechesis, Fellowship and Service

Psalm 96: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Dear Parishioners,

Through our Advent series, we have asked deep questions: Who made us? Why is there suffering and evil? What has God done about it? How are we called to live? As we arrive at Christmas and look at the manger scene, hopefully we can answer the question "Why has He come?" Look at the baby Jesus and contemplate a God who is so big and yet becomes so small in order to rescue and save us. "O wonder of your humble care for us, O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!" (Easter Exsultet).

Pope Benedict describes it so well in his Christmas Homily:

"God dwells on high, yet He stoops down to us ... God is infinitely great, and far, far above us. This is our first experience of Him. The distance seems infinite. The Creator of the universe, the one who guides all things, is very far from us: or so He seems at the beginning. But then comes the surprising realization: The One who has no equal, who "is seated on high", looks down upon us. He stoops down. He sees us, and He sees me.... That night in Bethlehem, it took on a completely new meaning ... The Creator who holds all things in His hands, on whom we all depend, makes Himself small and in need of human love." Pope Benedict XVI, 25 December 2008



We wish you a Blessed Christmas,

Fr. John Gannon, Fr. JP Luxbacher, and all the staff at Ascension Catholic Parish.

CONFESSIONS

Tuesday - Saturday:
8:15am - 8:45am

Saturdays: 4:00pm - 4:45pm

Sundays: 7:00am - 7:45am
or by appointment

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the office at 403.275.2240

When prompted

Press 2 for Pastor

Press 3 for Associate

1100 Berkshire Blvd NW Calgary, AB T3K 3M3

Phone 403.275.2240 | Fax 403.274.3969 | www.ascensionparish.ca

MESSAGE FROM PASTORAL COUNCIL

"For unto us a child is born, for unto us a son is given"-
Isaiah 9:6

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us acknowledge He is a gift from God in our lives. May we welcome Him into our family and our lives with open arms.

This year, our Parish reopened to many activities as our parishioners returned. We were able to run Lenten and Advent Missions, a Feast Day celebration, and we came together to celebrate various events as a community. We have welcomed our new Priests and have just celebrated the 4th anniversary of the Dedication of our building after the renovations.

With a New Year upon us, may we live the gift of faith, and the blessings of hope and peace from His love. The Parish Council is busy working on new programs and events to grow in our faith and build community.

Thank you to all of our parishioners and our volunteers for their contributions. Your support, commitment and welcoming nature keep our Ascension Family alive.

Parish Pastoral Council wishes you and your family a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**FINANCE COUNCIL &
BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE**

Our Parish is alive with renewed participation. Thank you for your continued financial support through pre-authorized donations, cash and envelope donations, and on-line donations. We also have new tap machines for your convenience. For those who would like to set up regular donations, please contact the office. The Donor Wall reflects our progress, with the purchase of 75 plaques of various amounts for a total of \$510,000. All these donations go directly to reduce our mortgage and create a beautiful piece of artwork in our Narthex.

Through your generous donations, we run our programs, and keep Parish operations going. Think of it as putting a roof over baby Jesus' head. Your donations also support Together in Action and various special collections around the world.

We are looking forward to next year as we open new opportunities for our parishioners. We trust that with your continued giving we will grow and flourish.

From the Finance Council and the Building Fund Committee, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

SACRAMENTS

Thank you to all the families who have continued to enrich their children's faith by living the Sacraments. The power of God's love and His grace that is given to us in the Sacraments will forever bring peace and hope into our lives.

A view of 2022	Projections for 2023
Baptisms – 268	Baptisms to exceed 200
First Reconciliation – 408	First Reconciliation to exceed 300
First Holy Communion - 195	First Holy Communion - 425
Confirmation – 182	Confirmation – 294

Ascension Catholic Parish is here to journey with you as you make the commitment to raise your child in the Catholic Faith. May you have a peaceful and blessed Christmas!!

YOUTH GROUP - METANOIA

The youth group leaders are so excited to announce that Metanoia will be starting up again in the New Year! The first meeting will be on January 19th, from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the Church hall and will be held every two weeks after that. There will be games, snacks and faith activities from the Conquest program. It is open to students grades 5 and up. If you are interested, please contact the youth group leaders at youth@ascensionparish.ca.

VOCATION CHALICE

This year our Parish began praying for Vocations in a special way with a traveling Chalice. Each weekend, the Chalice is presented to a family to use as a focal point while praying daily for an increase in Religious Vocations. If you and your family would like to have the Vocation Chalice in your home for a week, please sign-up on our [website](#), or call the office.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Thank you to all the parishioners who donated to our families in need this year. We delivered 38 Christmas hampers. Your gifts have made a difference to these families.

HORIZON OF HOPE

A toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care has been developed by the CCCB, as a positive response to end of life issues. It will assist in clarifying information, and reverse the deceptive messaging found in this increasing culture of death. This is a 4-module program being offered in 2023, through the Diocese at Ascension Catholic Parish every Monday from Jan. 9th to Jan. 30th, from 7—9pm. For more information and to register go to <https://www.catholicyc.ca/horizonsofhope.html>

A Little Story for Christmas



Before Emmanuel was born, his brother and sister felt that they were enough - and they certainly kept things busy at home. There was a lot of noise in the house after school when they were fighting for the couch, the TV, or the favorite snack. One time, even as Christmas drew near, there were a lot of loud temper tantrums: she had ruined his video game and he had thrown her doll and taken her favorite snack. For these two, it was almost like Emmanuel would never come.

They weren't really expecting him, but Mom and Dad knew that he would arrive. They tried to remind the kids but it wasn't easy. However, on December 25th, all was quiet in the house. And that was the day Emmanuel came too, very quietly. He could have been the centre of attention, but he was the kind of baby that could not be heard unless you were very quiet. His brother and sister began to understand that. Actually it was like that even when he was older. It was because you didn't expect him, they said.

Emmanuel was Jesus, and we are his brothers and sisters. A little noisy at times, a little selfish, and sometimes we just don't expect him. We feel that we are enough. Even today, unless we stop to visit him, and come up quietly to the crib to talk to him in our hearts, we might never realize that God has come.



The Kids' Bulletin

Christmas Day
December 25, 2022



Help the shepherds find their way to Bethlehem to see Baby Jesus.

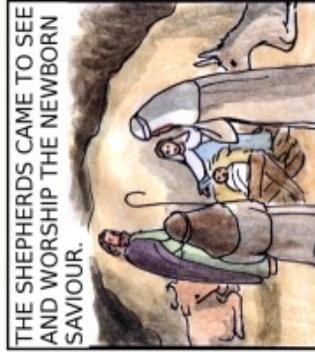
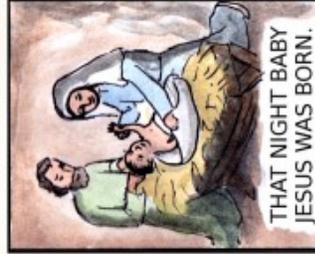


Answer to Word-Find: Jesus was born!

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The First Christmas

Christmas Word-Find



B E T H L E H E M D
M N J E S P O O R O
O I M C J E S U S K
T G A H O X E N A E
H H R S C U M A Y
E T G I E O B A B Y
R S E S P L D R L W
B I R T H D A Y E A
O N N A Z A R E T H
R N S T A P K S B O
N W R A P P E D R N



BABY DONKEY
BETHLEHEM INN
BIRTHDAY JESUS
BORN JOSEPH
CHRIST MANGER
COLD MARY
DARK MOTHER

NAZARETH
NIGHT
OXEN
POOR
STABLE
STAY
WRAPPED

WHY DO YOU THINK GOD CAME INTO THE WORLD AS A POOR AND TINY BABY WHEN HE COULD HAVE COME AS A POWERFUL KING? JESUS BECAME LITTLE SO THAT HE COULD SUFFER WITH US AND SO WE COULD LOVE HIM AS SOMEONE LIKE OURSELVES. HOW CAN YOU SHOW YOU LOVE JESUS TODAY ON HIS BIRTHDAY?

Why is Christmas so special? Because _____!

