

ASCENSION CATHOLIC PARISH

December 23 - 24, 2023



*Sharing the Spirit
Together in Christ*



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“To be Missionary Disciples”

We invite you to encounter Christ deeply in the Eucharist within a vibrant Catholic Community where you can use your gifts and talents to spread the Gospel message with joy

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

Dear friends,

Above all: May all the blessings of Christmas—joy, trust, hope, love, peace, and so many more—descend upon you and your loved ones!

To all who are visiting Ascension Catholic Parish this weekend to celebrate our Lord’s birth, we wish you all the best. It is good to gather together. **You are called. You matter! You belong.**

When I think of birthdays, I ask myself, what do we wish for the most? As the birthday boy or girl, we want to be remembered and appreciated, by words and gestures (as we blow out the candles on a yummy cake). As a parent or as a friend, we want our gifts to be gracefully accepted, and most importantly, we love it when it makes our special ones smile with joy. That is priceless!

As you hold out your heart to the little Baby Jesus today, may He smile at this beautiful gift. It is a day to make God’s heart abound with joy.

On behalf of the whole staff, Fr John, and the other Priests, may His light fill your heart. Wishing you a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

Yours,
Fr. JP

MASS TIMES

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Saturday: 9:00am

NEW* Wednesday: 6:00pm

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

Communications: Sophia
Nelson

Bookkeeper: Cindy Kreutzer

Resource: Connie Raz

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday—Saturday

9:30am - 4:00pm

Closed for Lunch 12pm - 1pm

FORMED
1 Year Subscription

FORMED is the premier Catholic streaming service, bringing thousands of enriching Catholic movies, programs, audio, and e-books when you sign up with Ascension Catholic Parish.

How to sign up for free:

1. Go to Formed.org
2. Select Sign Up at the top
3. Type Ascension Catholic Parish as your organization
4. Enter your name and email address, and sign up

1100 Berkshire Blvd NW Calgary, AB T3K 3M3

Phone 403.275.2240 | Fax 403.274.3969 | www.ascensionparish.ca

NEW YEARS MASS TIMES

New Years Eve, Dec 31st: 4pm, 8pm

New Years Day, Jan 1st: 8am, 10am and 12pm

VOLUNTEER RESOURCE MINISTRY

Our Parish is blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers who graciously share their time and talents in helping build and strengthen our community. They are the framework of our Parish. The various Ministries that we have are carried out by our awesome volunteers. Every volunteer makes a difference, and it truly is a rewarding experience.

As our Parish continues to grow, we are always looking for more volunteers who are interested in all our Ministries and to help build our community. It is a wonderful way to practice good stewardship as we work together to service our faith community.

Please visit our Volunteer section on our website and register your name. You can also email resource@ascensionparish.ca for more information.

Our Volunteers Are Awesome! Be Part Of The Team!

ATRIUM – CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

What if every child could have time and space specially set aside for an encounter with Christ? Our Parish has specially prepared an Atrium for the faith formation of our young learners, ages 4-6. An Atrium is a sacred space, and it is set apart for children so that they may grow in their relationship with God. This 12-week program will begin on January 9th, 2024. Registration is open for the Tuesday session and space is limited. For more information or to register your child, please contact Katy at katymorrison1@mac.com.

FRIDAY ADORATION

Join us for a moment of silence and prayer.

Every Friday

9:30am to 8:00pm

Please use the Chapel's entrance located at the South end of the Church during the day and especially after 4pm.

Please email office@ascensionparish.ca to register.

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.

Our Sacrament Registration will reopen on **June 1st, 2024**.

YOUTH GROUP - METANOIA

Calling all those in grade 5 to university to join our youth group called Metanoia. The first meeting for 2024 will be on **January 11th** at 6:30pm. Please visit our website www.ascensionparish.ca to register.

THAT MAN IS YOU

Inviting all men to join a spiritual journey to enhance your faith, family life, and personal growth with the Lord. The first session begins on **January 13th** at 7:15am. Please visit our website www.ascensionparish.ca to register.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the last candle that represents "LOVE". The greatest gift God gives to us is His only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We must all remember; He has come for everyone in the world. His love for all of us is unconditional and as we prepare this final week of Advent, let us open our hearts and minds to accept His love.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a warm welcome to our new and returning parishioners! We the Ascension Catholic Parish Family are blessed to celebrate this joyous season with you. May the light of Christmas fill our hearts with joy, faith, hope, and love.

Please note: If you would like to get in touch with the Parish Pastoral Council, please fill out the form [online](#) or leave a note in the drop box by the office. Thank you and God Bless.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE COUNCIL

As you have read Fr. John's Christmas Letter, you can see the various programs, activities, and retreats in which our Parish has been blessed to grow and participate in.

Thank you to all who have continued to share your financial gifts with the Parish during the past year. Your generosity continues to support the operations and mortgage payments for our Parish. Please consider your giving options for the coming year here at Ascension. We would appreciate it if you could sign up for our pre-authorized donations (PAD).

We will have a full financial update for the year closer to the end of January.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



Christmas is almost here!



Christmas is almost here! Isn't it exciting? It's like when it's getting really close to your birthday, except that people all over the world are going to be celebrating Christmas! We should help make Jesus' birthday as special as we can!

I CAN WASH
THE SINK
FOR MOM!



If your family has an Advent wreath, today all four of the candles will be lit.

This represents the light of Jesus coming closer and getting brighter. Jesus is the light of the world. If we want to make Christmas beautiful, then we should make our own lives shine with the love of Jesus.

HERE, I'LL HELP
YOU PICK UP
THE TOYS.



Does your family have a Christmas tree? Are there lights on it? Do you have Christmas lights on your house? All the little lights you see can represent all the people whose lives are lit up with the love of God. Or maybe they can represent all the good things you can do to brighten up other people's lives! Think of some things you can do to love God and bring His love to your family and your friends and neighbours this Christmas!

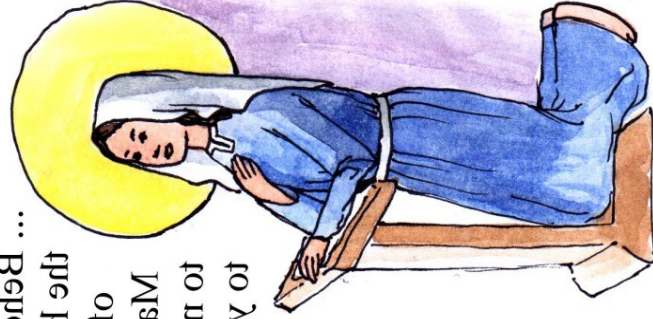


HI DAD! I
VACUUMED
UNDER
YOUR DESK!

The Kids' Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24th, 2023

Most High...
Behold, I am
the handmaid
of the Lord.
May it be done
to me according
to your word.



Then the angel
departed
from her.

What did the angel Gabriel say to Mary?
What did she reply to him?
Look in the mirror to find out!

Answers to True or False: 1.false, (Gabriel) 2.false, 3.true, 4.true,
5.false, 6.true, 7.true, (the baby was John the Baptist!)

Saint John the Evangelist

December 27



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST WAS A FISHERMAN AND A FOLLOWER OF JOHN THE BAPTIST BEFORE OUR LORD CALLED HIM TO BE AN APOSTLE.



HE WAS THE YOUNGEST APOSTLE AND WAS WITH OUR LORD AT THE TRANSFIGURATION AND THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN.



HE WAS THE ONLY APOSTLE WHO STAYED WITH JESUS AT THE CRUCIFIXION.



AFTER THE ASCENSION, JOHN TAUGHT AND ADMINISTERED THE SACRAMENTS.



WHEN HE WAS OLD, THERE WAS A PERSECUTION. THEY TRIED TO BOIL HIM IN OIL BUT HE SURVIVED.



HE WAS SENT TO AN ISLAND, WHERE HE HAD A VISION ABOUT THE CHURCH- WE CAN READ IT IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION IN THE BIBLE.



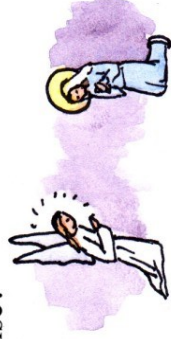
WHEN HE WAS FREED FROM THE ISLAND, THE PEOPLE ASKED HIM TO WRITE ABOUT THE LIFE OF JESUS. AFTER THE PEOPLE FASTED, HE WROTE HIS GOSPEL.

IN HIS GOSPEL SAINT JOHN CALLS HIMSELF "THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED." HIS HEART WAS PURE AND DEDICATED TO JESUS, SO HE WAS OPEN TO RECEIVING JESUS' LOVE. WHEN HE GREW TOO OLD TO GO OUT AND PREACH, SAINT JOHN JUST TOLD THE PEOPLE, "LOVE ONE ANOTHER."

True or False? Today's Gospel Reading: The Angel Visits Mary

*How well do you know the story of the Annunciation?
See if you know which are true and which are false:*

1. God sent the angel Michael to bring His message to Our Lady. True or false?
2. When Mary saw the angel, she covered her eyes. True or false?
3. The angel told Mary, "Do not be afraid." True or false?
4. The angel told Our Lady that she would have a Son that she would name 'Jesus.' True or false?
5. Mary just said okay and the angel left right away. True or false?
6. When Mary said she didn't understand, Gabriel told her that the baby would be the Son of God. True or false?
7. Before he left, the angel told Mary that her old cousin, Elizabeth, was going to have a baby too. True or false?



SAINT JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS



GOD CHOSE SAINT JOSEPH, A GOOD AND HUMBLE MAN, TO BE THE PROTECTOR OF HIS SON JESUS AND JESUS' MOTHER, MARY. IT WASN'T AN EASY JOB- THEY HAD TO TRAVEL FAR ON FOOT AND STAY IN A STABLE WITH ANIMALS, BUT SAINT JOSEPH WAS HAPPY TO SUFFER FOR LOVE OF GOD. ARE YOU?



Who did What?

Write the number of the person beside what they did in the Christmas Story.

— Announced the joyful news of the Saviour's birth

— Commanded that everyone register in their hometown

— Did not have room for the man and his wife

— Took his wife to Bethlehem

— Pondered all these things in her heart

— Went to find the newborn Saviour

— Came to save the people from their sins

1. Saint Joseph

2. Our Lady

3. The Shepherds

4. The Angels

5. The Innkeeper

6. Baby Jesus

7. The Emperor

