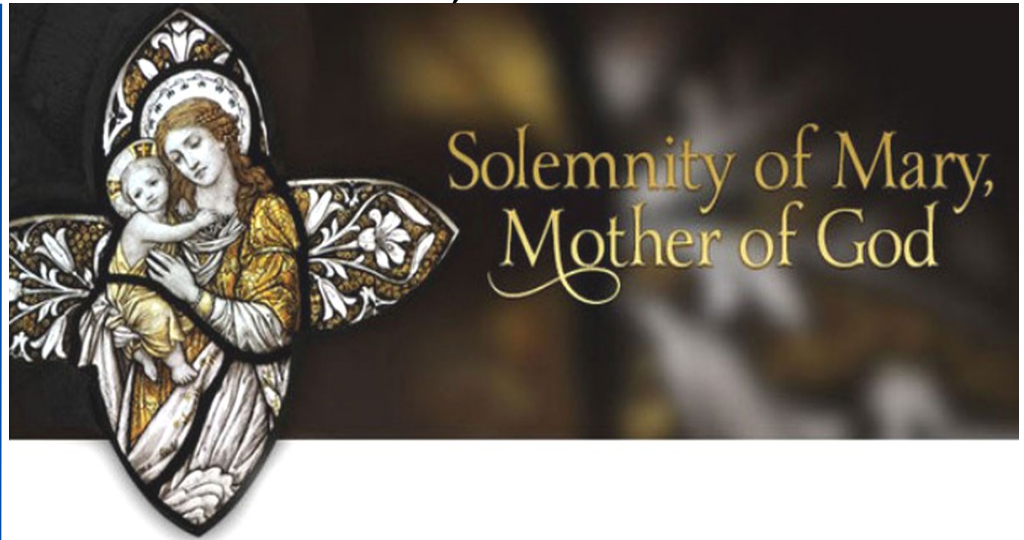


ASCENSION CATHOLIC PARISH

December 30 - 31, 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 105: The Lord remembers his covenant forever.

Liturgically, New Year's Day always falls within the Christmas season and since New Year's Day always gives people a sense of optimism and a fresh start, the Church has dubbed it the World Day of Peace.

In 1969, Pope Paul VI restored the ancient Roman practice of celebrating on January 1st a liturgical solemnity honoring Mary as the Mother of God. In his Apostolic Letter on Marian devotion, he made a connection between these two dimensions of how the Church welcomes the New Year. He wrote:

“The restored Solemnity of Mary the holy Mother of God... is likewise a fitting occasion for renewing adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels, and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace. It is for this reason that, in the happy concurrence of the Octave of Christmas and the first day of the year, we have instituted the World Day of Peace, an occasion that is gaining increasing support and already bringing forth fruits of peace in the hearts of many.”

Let us pray for peace in our world on this feast of Mary, Mother of God.

Happy New Year!

Fr. John Gannon

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



**A PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
MARY AND JOSEPH**

God the Father, draw us into your arms, that we might know how cherished we are as members of your family. May our homes and our hearts be living expressions of your desire to gather all people into your family, now and forever. Amen.

1100 Berkshire Blvd NW Calgary, AB T3K 3M3

Phone 403.275.2240 | Fax 403.274.3969 | [www.ascensionparish.ca](#)

EVENTS & INFORMATION

A YEAR IN REVIEW



A heartfelt thank you to the parishioners of Ascension Catholic Parish for your active and meaningful participation throughout the year. Your dedication and contributions have enriched our community and strengthened our shared journey of faith.

SACRAMENTS

Facts of Faith!

What is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God?

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a liturgical celebration observed on January 1st; it celebrates Mary as the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of the Church.

Is a solemnity the same as a feast?

Solemnities are special feasts – It is a designation used for certain days within the liturgical calendar of the Church. Solemnities are the highest rank of liturgical celebration, higher than feast days or memorials. By celebrating a solemnity dedicated to Mary’s motherhood, the Church highlights the significance of her role in Christ’s life.

The three solemnities which celebrate Mary:

Mary, Mother of God	<i>“She is the Mother of the Head and of the members – the holy Mother of God and therefore the provident Mother of the Church” (January 1st, 2024)</i>
Assumption of Mary	<i>“Recognize the beginning that has already been made and the image of what, for the whole Church, must still come to pass” (August 15th, 2024)</i>
Immaculate Conception	<i>“Recognize the beginning of the Church, the spotless Bride of Christ” (December 9th, 2024)</i>

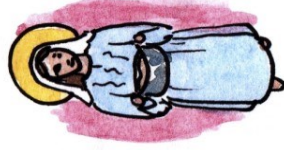
Source: [Marialis Cultus](http://MarialisCultus.com), Pope Paul VI

YOUTH GROUP - METANOIA

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

The Holy Family

When we talk about the Holy Family we are talking about Jesus and his mother Mary and his foster-father, Saint Joseph. Mary became the mother of Jesus when she was betrothed (formally engaged) to St. Joseph, and Jesus' real father was God the Father Himself. So Saint Joseph acted as the Father of Jesus on earth.



Saint Joseph was a carpenter and worked hard to provide for his family. Mary loved Jesus and Joseph and cooked and cleaned for them. When Jesus was old enough Saint Joseph trained Him to be a carpenter as well. Because they all loved each other with generosity and selflessness they were really the happiest and holiest family that ever lived.

We can imitate the Holy Family by loving our parents and siblings and putting others before ourselves. What can you do today to make your family happier and holier?



Answer to puzzle on front: the Mother of God.
Answers to Word Find: Love each other!

The Kids' Bulletin

December 31st, 2023: Feast of the Holy Family
January 1st, 2024: Feast of Mary the Mother of God



Mary,



Under what title do we honour Our Lady on January 1st?
Use the code to find out!

D E F G H M O R T
* O B O U N D E D *

Saint Gregory Nazianzen

January 2



GREGORY'S FATHER WAS A PAGAN AT FIRST BUT BECAME A BISHOP IN THE EARLY CHURCH THROUGH THE PRAYERS AND SACRIFICES OF HIS HOLY WIFE.



DURING A STORM AT SEA, GREGORY REALIZED HIS SOUL WAS IN DANGER BECAUSE HE WAS NOT YET BAPTIZED.

My soul isn't ready!



I baptize you...

HE WAS BAPTIZED AND BECAME A GREAT FRIEND OF ST. BASIL.



THEY STUDIED THE SCRIPTURES AND LED DEVOUT LIVES.

Look what Isaiah says about Christ!



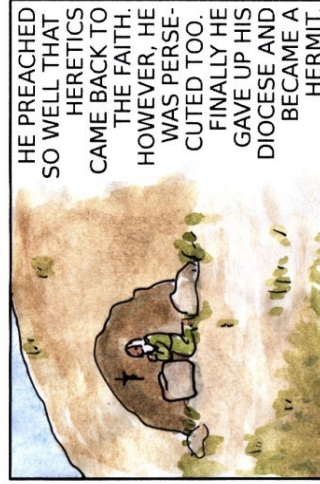
I need to pray about this...

WHEN HIS FATHER FORCED HIM TO BE ORDAINED, GREGORY RAN AWAY TO THE DESERT FOR A WHILE.



The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and Son.

WHEN HE RETURNED HE BEGAN TO PREACH AND WAS MADE A BISHOP EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE.

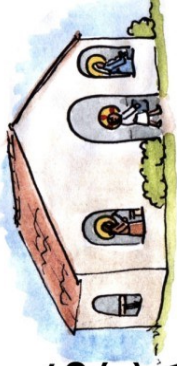


HE PREACHED SO WELL THAT HERETICS CAME BACK TO THE FAITH. HOWEVER, HE WAS PERSECUTED TOO. FINALLY HE GAVE UP HIS DIOCESE AND BECAME A HERMIT.



SAINT GREGORY LIVED A LIFE OF SACRIFICE AND PENANCE, AND THOUGHT NOTHING OF ALL WORLDLY RICHES AND PLEASURES. HE WROTE AND TAUGHT ABOUT THE FAITH SO ELOQUENTLY THAT MANY WERE BROUGHT BACK TO THE FAITH. BECAUSE OF ALL HE DID TO TEACH THE FAITH HE IS CALLED A DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH.

Holy Family Word-Find



See if you can find all these words about the Holy Family in the puzzle!

Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end!

L G O D S E L F L E S S
 M H V J E R A T I S J A C
 C O P E R A M I S H R
 H I E S L E I S H P
 L E T H O S A R Y H R E E V N T
 H O M E H R J A P P E E
 F A I T H R Y P P O R E
 P E R F E C T Y C A R E

CARE

CARPENTER

CHILD

COOPERATION

FAITH

FAMILY

FATHER

FOSTER

GOD

HAPPY

HELP

HOLY

HOME

JESUS

JOSEPH

JOY

LEARN

LOVE

MOTHER

MARY

PEACE

PERFECT

POOR

SELFLESS

SHARE

The best way to be like the Holy Family: