

**Did??
You??
Know?**

Christmas is the second oldest Christian annual Christian celebration. After the annual celebration of the Paschal Mystery [that is, Easter], the Church has no more ancient custom than celebrating the memorial of the Nativity of the Lord and of his first manifestations, and this takes place in Christmas Time



-Christmas is not one day long. It also is not twelve days long. We tend to think of Christmas as being just December 25th, but the Christmas season lasts longer than that. Many think of the "twelve days of Christmas," but the Christmas season is actually variable in length, depending on how soon a Sunday occurs after January 6th. Here is the official rule for when it begins and ends: Christmas Time runs from First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the Nativity of the Lord up to and including the Sunday after Epiphany or after 6 January.

-Calling Christmas, *X-mas* doesn't make you a rebel, because the X stands for the Greek Letter Chi/Kie which was the symbol for Christ.

-The wreath of **holly** used symbolizes Christ's crown of thorns, and the wreath used during advent!

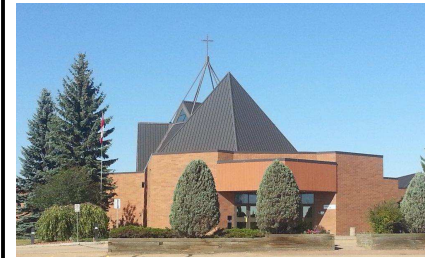
-The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us.

-The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season and a tradition in many Christian homes. It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends as a way to honor God the Father's gift of his only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones.

Week 51 - December 16, 2018

A more detailed breakdown of the budget can be found at www.olph.ca or at the Parish Office

Financial Report December	ORDINARY RECEIPTS	BUILDING FUND	Together We Serve
Average weekly cost of running the Parish (based 2018 budgeted amount)	\$25,135.00	Weekly target amount \$2,596.00	2018 Target Amount \$114,000.00
Donations December 16	\$47,677.75	\$ 4,053.00	Amount Collected to date: \$101,958.15
Week 51	\$ 22,542.75	\$1,457.00	
YTD Shortfall	-\$103,032.50	-\$11,607.70	-12,041.85



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

*A Roman Catholic Christian Community
We come together at our Lord's invitation to worship God,
celebrate the sacraments, and deepen our faith.
We strive to be thankful, generous and welcoming,
and are sent forth to help advance God's Kingdom on earth
by proclaiming the Gospel and serving others.*

December 23, 2018 Fourth Sunday of Advent Cycle C

Masses Dec 24

8:30am

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 pm Sanctuary
4:00 pm Parish Hall
6:30 pm Sanctuary
6:30 pm Parish Hall
9:00 pm Sanctuary
Midnight Sanctuary

Find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/olphsherwoodpark/>

Masses Christmas Day

8:30 am; 10:30am; 12:30 pm &
7:00pm

Tofield Mass

11:00 am

**December 31, 2018
Mary Holy Mother of God**

New Year's Eve
5:00 pm-Vigil Mass
**Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament** 6:00pm until 8:00am
on January 01, 2019

(Holy Day of Obligation)

January 1, 2019
Mary Holy Mother of God
New Year's Day

New Year's Day Masses
8:30 am
10:30 am
12:30 pm
7:00 pm

Tofield Mass

11:00 am

OLPH Website:
www.olph.ca

Parish Office will be open between Christmas and New Years from 7:30 am - 8:30 pm

From The Pastor's Desk.....

My dear brothers and sisters, it is with both sadness and joy that I tell you our brother Robert Gaudet is leaving us at the end of January. Robert has been so generous in sharing his God given talents with the community of OLPH whether it be with the dinner club, the potlucks, marriage prep. or Couples for Christ. He has been pivotal in the development and implementation of our Visioning initiative. More recently he has shared his many talents in his role as business administrator. He will be greatly missed! Our hearts are joyful for Robert and Marisol as they embark on their new adventure together-a move to Houston. This move will allow them to spend more time with family and to be physically present in the life of their granddaughter-a true blessing. There is not much more to say other than thank you Robert for showing us all what true discipleship looks like and may God bless you and your family.

Fr. Jim
Pastor

Liturgy Schedule

Dec. 24 - Sun. Dec. 30

Weekday Mass 7 days a week at 8:30 am

Monday: 8:30 am Mass

Christmas Eve: 4:00 pm, 6:30 pm, 12:30 pm, 7:00 pm

Tuesday: Christmas Day: 8:30 am Mass, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 7:00 pm

Wednesday: 8:30 am Mass

Thursday: 8:30 am Mass, 6:15 pm Mass

Friday: 8:30 am Mass

Saturday: 8:30 am Mass

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 7:00 pm Mass

St. Francis of Assisi, Tofield, AB

Mass: Sundays 11:00 am

Tuesday, Christmas Day: 11:00 am

† In Loving Remembrance....

We extend our deepest sympathy and the assurance of the prayers of God's people here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help to:
Elisabeth Helmers & family. Elisabeth's husband, **Henri Helmers** died December 14th in Sherwood Park.
Bob and Sheryl Gerow. Bob's uncle, **Gordon Gerow** died December 1st in Ottawa.

Mass Intentions:

Mon. Dec. 24: David Dotto†, Craig Wallace†, Phil & Phyllis Redl†, Jim & Gloria Wallace†, Clair Dalton†, Mae Andrew, Donald Snook†

Wed. Dec. 26: Arlene Rogers, Myrtle Silveira, OLPH Baptism Preparation Leaders, OLPH Funeral Luncheon Preparation Team

Thurs. Dec. 27: Mickey Niven†, Lennie Chichak†, Henri Helmers†, Kathleen Kennedy†, Thomas & Elizabeth Hannon†

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation 1/2 hour prior to all weekday Masses and from 9:15 am to 11:00 am on Saturday or by appointment.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Sunday 7:30 am - 8:30 pm

Office Closed Dec. 25 & Dec. 26

Open during lunch hour

Pastor

Fr. Jim Corrigan - jcorrigan@olph.ca

Associate Pastors

Father Sathiaselan Kulandaisamy SDB

Fr. Sathia - frsathia@olph.ca

Father Jojappa Chinnabathini SAC

Fr. Jojo - frjojo@olph.ca

Pastoral Assistants

Betty Donovan - pastoralcare@olph.ca

Sue Boyne - pastoralcare@olph.ca

Monna Senez - msenez@olph.ca

Raylene Yuzyk - ryuzyk@olph.ca

Pat Lemire - pat@olph.ca

Financial & Business Administrator and Volunteer Coordinator

Robert Gaudet - robert@olph.ca

Administrative Assistants

Lorraine Dotto - ldotto@olph.ca

Jenny Velazco - jvelazco@olph.ca

Fri. Dec. 28: Hanna Jade Labonte†, Lindsay & Lee Labonte†, Henri Helmers† Myrtle Silveria, Parish Office Team, Robert Valcourt†, Diane Valcourt & Family, Raelene, Dean Liski & Family
Sat. Dec. 29: Theresa & Pat Lema, Taylor Berenzan, Mary & Eugene Meyer, Angelina and Martin Bohn, Carol Boyle† Michael & Pius Bohn, Jim and Eugene Jr. Meyer,

Wednesday, December 26

St. Stephen, the First Martyr

Even as the Church joyfully celebrates the birth of Jesus for three more weeks, the feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr, refocuses us on the cost of discipleship. Stephen, a deacon in the early Church, was stoned by a mob while preaching the Gospel. With his dying breath, he begged God to forgive his killers. What is the cost of discipleship for us? Do you need to forgive someone who has wronged you? *Today's Readings: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17-22.*

Thursday, December 27

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

John and his brother James were fishermen who abandoned their nets and their father when Jesus called them to follow him. Although the authorship of the Gospel of John has been debated since AD 200, many Church fathers have attributed it to the Apostle John. The "beloved disciple" mentioned several times is believed to be John himself, who rested on Jesus' breast during the Last Supper, remained with him at the Cross, and "saw and believed" at the empty tomb. *Today's Readings: 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1a, 2-8.*

Friday, December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Today we remember the boys Herod slaughters when he learns that Jesus, the "newborn king," has escaped his grasp. He cannot abide a rival king even though his own people are joyful at Jesus' birth. When we believe someone has taken something that is rightfully ours, we too can become enraged. What a different response Jesus counsels—to turn the other cheek! *Today's Readings: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8; Matthew 2:13-18.*

Saturday, December 29

Living in the Light of Christ

John juxtaposes light and darkness to compare our words with our deeds: "Whoever says he is in the light, yet hates his brother, is still in the darkness." The Church continues to celebrate this holy Christmas Time; lights still brighten our homes and yards to welcome Christ, our Light. But do we truly live in the light? The test given by John is whether we harbor hatred for anyone. It is never too late to request or give forgiveness, to give up a grudge, to reconcile with another. Only then will we truly live in the light of Christ, whose forgiveness and mercy toward us have no bounds. *Today's Readings: 1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Luke 2:22-35.*



Sunday, December 23, 2018 The Spirit Speaks through Elizabeth

Today's Readings: Micah 5:1-4a; Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45. When we meet Elizabeth in today's Gospel, she is caught up in astonishing events. She is carrying a child in her old age while her husband, Zechariah, has been rendered mute after questioning an angel who gave him a message that the child would be conceived.

When her relative from Nazareth comes for a visit, Elizabeth grasps that something even greater is now happening. Her baby leaps in her womb; and Elizabeth, bursting with the Holy Spirit, knows at once the news that Mary has come to tell her. She is overwhelmed that her relative has been chosen to bring to birth the promised Messiah, and she recognizes God's abundant blessing in both Mary and this child.

Mary, who had shared the news from the angel Gabriel with Joseph alone, now hears Elizabeth's words echoing the words of the angel. Gabriel had called Mary "favored one"; Elizabeth calls her "blessed among women." The angel had said the child to be born would be "holy, the Son of God"; Elizabeth calls him "Lord" (Luke 1:35). Both Gabriel and Elizabeth echo Micah's long-ago prophecy of the Messiah: "his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth: he shall be peace."

With Christmas nearly here, let us welcome Christ into our hearts with the same joy that Elizabeth did, and pledge to be instruments of his peace in our families and our world.

Monday, December 24 Giver of All Gifts

Our gifts are bought and ready to be presented to loved ones. David, too, wants to give a gift—a house for God. God reminds David that God is the giver of all gifts, that all David has is from him. God shows his generosity by promising David a different kind of "house"—a kingship through his descendants that will last forever. Jesus, King over all peoples, fulfills the promise. We give thanks for God's extravagant gift of his Son. *Today's Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Luke 1:67-79.*

Tuesday, December 25 The Nativity of the Lord

Finally the waiting is over and we celebrate the birth of Jesus. When you place the image of the Infant Jesus in the manger of your crèche, remember this is no ordinary child! Jesus, the Word, was present in the beginning; and the world was created through him. "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." How blessed we are that our God desires to dwell with us. Let us rejoice that Emmanuel—God with us—is born! *Today's Readings (Mass during the Day): Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18.*

Living in the Word of God

'Hear the Word of God and Do It'

Living in the Word As we open our hearts to the Word of God, and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to us how we may more faithfully put it into practice, we encounter these challenging questions, posed by St. Paul: "What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?" (*1 Corinthians 4:7*) All is God's gift. Everything good that we have and are comes from God. Sacred Scripture also makes known the purpose for which God bestows gifts on his children: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (*1 Peter 4:10*).

(Archbishop Smith, *Pastoral Letter*, September 14, 2017) caedm.ca/letter.

Grace with lines inspired by the Readings for December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Leader: Lord Jesus, we thank you for your Word. You inspire us to act like Mary and to bring Christ to all those we meet. (*Luke 1:39*)

All: May the Prince of Peace fill us with hope, peace, love and joy this Christmas.

OR

Leader: Lord Jesus, we thank you for your Word. You assure us that through the Holy Spirit our lives are transformed and we come to recognize you in our lives.

All: May we know the love of God in our lives and in our homes this Christmas.



Reminder 2018 Income Tax Receipts

PLEASE NOTE: All contributions to be recorded for 2018 must be received by the Parish

NO LATER than **December 31, 2018.**

Thank you for your generous donations

Parishioners using contribution envelopes

Your 2019 envelopes are available for you to pick up in the foyer of the church.

OLD ENVELOPES MUST NOT BE USED after December 31, 2018



Grief as a Journey

The death of a loved one is emotionally wrenching, and at times the journey of healing can be particularly difficult. This winter OLPH Parish will once again host a support group program for bereaved. **Grief as a Journey** will be held on Wednesday afternoons January 9 – February 27, 2019 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. For more information please call **Sue** or **Betty** at the Parish office

780-467-5470.

Growing In Faith Together

Catholicism 101: What Do Catholics Believe?

“Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.” 1 Peter 3:15

Tuesdays, January 8-March 5, 7:00-8:30 pm
OR Wednesdays, January 9-March 6, 9:30-11:00 am

Do you know why Catholics believe and do the things they do? Can you explain your Catholic faith to others? Whether you are a new Catholic, a returning Catholic or you just want to know more about Catholic beliefs and practices – Catholicism 101 is for you!

Some of the topics we will cover include:

- What is “the Church” and why do I need it?
- What every Catholic should know about Church history.
- What makes a Catholic “Catholic”?
- What do Catholics believe about the Eucharist?
- Where am I going (death, judgment, heaven, hell)?
- How can I live a Catholic life?



Catholicism 101 is absolutely FREE but pre-registration is required, as space is limited! For more information and to register, contact Alana LaPerle at 780-446-9009 or alaperle@telus.net

Christmas Prayer



Prayer for Christmas Dinner

Eternal God, This joyful day is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do. May we share the divine life of your son Jesus Christ, even as he humbled himself to share our humanity. Bless us and the feast that You have provided for us, let us be thankful for the true gift of Christmas, your Son. Amen.

We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe

13 Brower Drive, Sherwood Park, AB T8H 1Y7 Telephone: 780-467-5470 Fax: 780-467-0530
email: info@olph.ca Website: www.olph.ca Archdiocesan website: <http://www.caedm.ca>

Parish & Community News



ATTENTION EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS “WE NEED YOU”

We are still in need of Eucharistic Ministers for the upcoming Christmas and New Year Masses. Please sign up on the sheets located in the church foyer.

OLPH Prayer Laudators

We pray for others. Prayers of praise and intercession are offered to God our Father. Confidentiality is respected at all times.

Contact: **Doreen at 780-467-0597 or Josie at 780-467-0197.**



RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and becoming a Catholic? Please contact Pat Lemire at the Parish office @ 780-467-5470 ext. 228 or email at pat@olph.ca.



FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

The Story of the Nativity Explore the Birth of Christ

This fast-paced look at the true story of the Nativity clears away misunderstandings about Jesus’s origin and is invaluable for learning more about the truth of Christmas.

To get your FREE SUBSCRIPTION to FORMED: Visit www.olph.ca/formation and click on the Formed link – the parish code is already entered for you. Complete the simple registration process and start using FORMED today!

[Watch on formed.org](http://www.formed.org)



Retreat: The Holy Spirit is the Sanctifier

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Blessed Trinity, and the one most active in the world today. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit created the world (Genesis 1:2), led Jesus into the desert (Matthew 4:1), comes to us at Confirmation (Acts 8:18), and intercedes for us in signs that we cannot understand (Romans 8:26). Father Mario will lead this retreat on **Saturday, January 12**, at the Mount Carmel Spirituality Centre. For more information or to register, visit <https://mountcarmeledmonton.ca>

Community News

Upcoming at Providence Renewal Centre

Awakening to God's Presence

In her book *Ten Evenings with God*, Sister Ilia Delio, OSF, invites us to get to know God and in doing so, to awaken to divine presence in life's decisions. Join Carol Sebastian and Debbie Doornbos as we journey together to discover God's grace and guidance. Gather in prayer to begin the adventure on January 3. Then, in the comfort of your home, work through five evenings (chapters) before we gather two weeks later to share. We finish the book and return to celebrate the journey as the month ends. Are you ready to set out on a field trip into the soul? **Thursdays: January 3, 17, 31** at 1:30- 3:30 p.m. \$60 (Book not included) Register by December 20.

Learn to Quilt: A Piece-by-piece Spiritual Experience

Quilting is faith in action, a grateful expression of co-creating with the Divine. Begin the year by learning a new skill with Kathryn Bourque. Each participant will complete a table runner made from scraps of donated fabric. Bring your own sewing machine, a small iron, and an open heart.

Wednesday, January 16, at 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$135 includes lunch. Register by January 9.

Newman Theological College Learn about the Faith

The Certificate in Catholic Studies (CCS) courses offer an exciting opportunity to learn about various aspects of the Catholic faith from the comfort of your own home. Subjects range from Scripture to Social Justice to Canon Law and more.

These online courses are for anyone wanting a deeper understanding of the faith. Each course costs \$85, and runs for 5 weeks. The next cycle starts **January 7, 2019**.

Please call Newman Theological College at 780-392-2450 for more information, or register online at <https://www.newman.edu/CCS>.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
(780) 416-0931 Help Line: ext 1, Donations: ext 2
Poor Box Collection: 3rd Sunday of every Month

Children's Sacraments and Programs

First Communion 2018/2019

The retreats for First Communion will be held on:

Saturday, March 16, 2019 at OLPH Parish from 2:30 - 6:00 pm

or

Sunday, April 7, 2019 at OLPH Parish from 12:30 - 3:45 pm

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Raylene** at the Parish Office at **780-467-5470** or ryzyk@olph.ca



Confirmation - Grade 6 or older:

Registration and Parent Orientation Meeting at OLPH Parish

Monday, January 28th, 2019 7:00pm at OLPH Parish or contact **Raylene** at **780-467-5470** ext. 223 or ryzyk@olph.ca. More information is available at www.olph.ca

Religious Education Program Catechetics (Religious Education) Home Program

As we begin a new school year, we also think of religious instruction for our children.



If you have a child who is not in our Catholic Schools, there is a Home program for Religious Education. Please contact Christine, **780-417-4773**, for information and materials to begin the program. A catechist will journey with you during the year to provide ongoing support. As well we will offer home program families the opportunity to come together two to three times during the year.

Welcome to our Newest OLPH Parishioners who were baptized on December 16, 2018



Hailey Aboughoushe
Kasten Duncan
Evelyn Keep
Evailee-Mae Yuzyk

Damian Adam
Keir Fisher
Julia Laforest

Martin Andres
Bennett Greschner
Knox Stenvold



The Catholic Bishops
of Alberta and the
Northwest Territories

Les évêques catholiques
de l'Alberta et des
Territoires du Nord-Ouest

8421 - 121 Avenue Sheraton, Alberta Centre, T5A 0A1 • 778-468-2312 • 778-468-3322

19 September 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In Alberta, the yearly celebration of Catholic Education Sunday is an opportunity for Catholic schools and our faith communities to promote their important and distinctive mission.

In keeping with the theme for this year's Synod of Bishops: Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment, the theme for this Catholic Education Sunday is Rejoice and Be Glad. Our theme is further inspired by Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation and the call to holiness. It highlights the important role that our schools play in nurturing the call to holiness for our children and youth. Our schools also help students know Christ through religious education, prayer, and a safe, caring school community that encourages them to discern their vocations. Pope Francis reminds young people that Jesus looks to them and invites them to journey with him. They are urged to be open to God's plan in becoming joyful disciples.

Catholic Schools, along with the family and the parish community, support our young people in their journey of faith. Teachers, students, parents and priests together are witnesses to, and agents of, the Good News proclaimed by Jesus Christ. This faith witness is described in the apostolic exhortation as the "saints next door". It reminds us that in every circumstance there are people of faith who inspire us to respond openly to the love of God and to serve Him generously. Sustained by such a bold vision, Catholic Schools encourage students to grow in their faith, to live its principles and to act in ways that make a positive difference in their local communities and the global community.

The universal call to holiness has particular importance in the life of a Catholic School. Catholic education invites students to respond to the personal call of Jesus to embark on a journey of holiness. They are encouraged to grow in the knowledge of how God is active and present in their lives. They are called to enter into a living relationship with God.

Catholic schools put Christ, the witness of faith, and the teachings of the Catholic Church at the centre of the educational enterprise. By placing Christ at the centre of all they are and all they do, Catholic schools make sure that a student's journey into adulthood is also a journey of faith. A journey which recognizes that true knowledge, learning, justice, peace and human freedom are a response of love to the God who is Love.

We know that life is not without its challenges and temptations, which can distract our children and youth from responding to the call to holiness. "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Mt. 5:12). This scripture quote, which roots the apostolic exhortation, recognizes that there will be many challenges in the quest for holiness. However, these challenges are not met with fear. They are met with courage and an assured confidence of the abiding presence of God. It is this confidence rooted in Christian hope that guides our Catholic Schools to instill and nourish, through many learning experiences, the belief that each child is created in the image of God and with God, all things are possible.

We, the Alberta and NWT Bishops, are grateful for parents who entrust their children to our Catholic School system and for parishes that minister to them. On Catholic Education Sunday, we express our appreciation for the administrative, professional, pastoral and support staff, who are dedicated to the noble task of assisting children and youth to follow the call to greater holiness. They help students grow in the assured belief that God journeys with them. 3 May God bless you and continue to sustain your faith-filled mission with His grace.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Catholic Bishops of Alberta and NWT

Most Reverend Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton

Most Reverend William T. McGrattan
Bishop of Calgary

Most Reverend David Motiuk
Bishop of the Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton

Most Reverend Gerard Pettipas CSsR
Archbishop Grouard-McLennan

Most Reverend Paul Terrio
Bishop of St. Paul

Most Reverend Jon Hansen CSsR
Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith