

Church Open/Office Hours 7:30 am to 7:30 pm Daily
Mass, Adoration & Reconciliation at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

Sunday Mass

Saturday vigil 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am, 10:30 am,

Weekday Mass

Mornings: Monday to Saturday 8:30 am
Evenings: Monday to Friday 6:15 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every Saturday 9:15 am to 11:00 am

Monday to Friday: ***Immediately Following Morning and Evening Mass***

***If you wish to celebrate Reconciliation after a weekday Mass, please ensure you are **AT THE CONFESSIONAL BY THE TIME MASS ENDS**. The priests will not wait if no one is there after Mass, and will only stay for as long as there are people waiting.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Everyone Welcome, Always Open to All!

***FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH Family-Friendly Holy Hour ***
2:30 pm (children of all ages WELCOME, silence is NOT expected in the Church)

EVERY FRIDAY a Holy Hour prior to each daily Mass
7:30 am prior to Morning Mass and 5:15 pm prior to Evening Mass

EVERY WEDNESDAY Holy Hour 5:15 pm prior to Evening Mass



1st Wednesday hosted by Mary's Servants for Christ: January 7, 2026
2nd Wednesday hosted by Society of St. Vincent de Paul: January 14, 2026
3rd Wednesday hosted by CWL: January 21, 2026
4th Wednesday hosted by K of C: January 28, 2026
5th Wednesday hosted by Clergy: April 29, 2026

**LIVESTREAM
WORSHIP**



Did you know OLPH has a YouTube Channel? For the benefit of the faithful whose health or other circumstances prevent them from attending the church in person, all Masses and Adoration will continue to be livestreamed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@olphparishsherwoodparkab/streams>

WATCH the 8:30 am Mass, seven days a week, live on Telus Optik TV Channel 877.
(Must be a Telus Optik subscriber.)

LISTEN to the 8:30 am Sunday Mass live – or anytime – from your landline or cell phone.
Dial 888-OLPH-808 (888-657-4808) and then follow the simple instructions.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish ~ A Roman Catholic Christian Community

CHRISTMAS 2025 SPECIAL EDITION

Wednesday December 24, 2025 ~ Christmas Eve
Thursday December 25, 2025 ~ Nativity of the Lord

We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe

13 Brower Drive, Sherwood Park, AB T8H 1Y7 780-467-5470 www.olph.ca

Holiday Office Hours & Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve ~ Wednesday December 24, 2025

Mass at 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm, 10:00 pm and
Midnight (*incense at Midnight Mass*)

Christmas Day / Nativity of the Lord

Thursday December 25, 2025

Mass at 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 7:00 pm
(*incense at 7:00 pm Mass*)

New Year's Eve ~ Wednesday December 31, 2025

Mass at 5:00 pm, followed by *Rosary & Eucharistic
Adoration* through the night 6:00 pm - 8:00 am

New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Thursday January 1, 2026

Mass at 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, and 7:00 pm
(*incense at 7:00 pm Mass*)



MERRY CHRISTMAS

****Please note the OLPH Parish Office will be CLOSED
on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.**



Have you got a minute or two?

Our parish has offered to pilot test a census process that will be rolled-out to all parishes next year. A parish census is simply a brief survey that we do every 3 to 5 years to update our records and get to know our parish family a little better.

Back in the day, a Catholic pastor would grab his trusty clipboard and stroll door to door, cheerfully asking, "Are you Catholic?" If the answer was yes, then he'd jot down their name and a few details about their family, before moving on to the next house. As much as I'd love this personal approach, it's just not practical in a bustling parish like ours. Thankfully, we now have tech on our side...but I really need your help!

Please take a few minutes NOW to complete the parish registration form – whether you are already a registered parishioner, new to the parish, or just drop in from time to time. Every voice matters!

Thank you from the bottom of my shoes!

Fr. Jim

Fr. Jim Corrigan
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

To Register:

Scan the QR code or use the url below to go directly to the online form and complete your census. Paper surveys are available in the foyer or at the Parish Office.

****If you already completed your census during the pilot in October, no need to repeat it, unless any of your information has changed.**



ourladyofperpetualhelpsp.flocknote.com/register

Parish Financial Information

FYI	Cost of Operating the Parish	Building Fund Target Amount	"Together We Serve" Target Amount
Average weekly amount required	\$26,925.00	\$2,480.00	\$2,545.00
Christmas Giving YTD \$2,975.00		Book Program Donations YTD \$1,030.00	

- Cost of operating the parish "average weekly amount" is 1/52 of the total annual amount of ordinary receipts projected in the 2023 budget
- Building fund target average weekly amount is based on total donations projected in 2023 budget.
- Together We Serve weekly amount is based an annual target which is set by the Archdiocese.
- Together We Serve Collection - *First Sunday of every month, next one is January 4, 2026*
- Society of St. Vincent De Paul Poor Box Collection - *Third Sunday of every month, next one is January 18, 2026*



A humble and heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who has continued to support the financial needs of our parish with (PAD) Pre-Authorized Debit or by bringing your **Sunday Giving Envelopes** to the church. OLPH is also set up to accept donations via INTERAC E-TRANSFER at:

OLPH.etransfer@caedm.ca

When sending an e-transfer, please include your Envelope # OR address and any special instructions in the Message Box, to ensure your donation is properly recorded for your annual tax receipt.



Safe, Easy and Secure

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2026 SUNDAY GIVING ENVELOPES IN THE PARISH FOYER!

****REMINDER All Sunday and Christmas offerings (including e-transfers) for the 2025 tax year MUST be received no later than December 31, 2025. Donations received after that date will be included in the 2026 taxation year.**



- Don't use your new envelopes until January 1st, 2026.
- Be aware that all donation numbers have changed.
- Please recycle all unused 2025 envelopes.

You can also sign up for (PAD) Pre-Authorized Debit to ensure your regular contributions happen automatically, even when you cannot come to the church in person. Contact the parish office to register 780-467-5470. You can start & stop at anytime.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the financial needs of our parish home!

Parish Office 780-467-5470

General Inquiries:

info@olph.ca

OLPH Website:

www.olph.ca

Your OLPH Parish Team

Pastor ~ Fr. Jim Corrigan

jcorrigan@olph.ca

Cell 780-470-2730

Associate Pastor

TBA

Permanent Deacon

Deacon Lynn Pion

lpion@olph.ca

Business Coordinator

Bridget Francisco

bridget.francisco@olph.ca

Pastoral Assistant

Natalie Lavigne

nlavigne@olph.ca

Administrative Assistant

Jenny Velazco

jvelazco@olph.ca

Administrative Assistant

Angie DeWolfe

adewolfe@olph.ca

WEEKEND Admin

Support reception@olph.ca

Volunteer Management

vmteam@olph.ca

Archdiocese of Edmonton

Website: www.caedm.ca

**In Case of an Emergency,
Contact Fr. Jim on his cell
phone 780-470-2730
(call or text)**



10.17.26 Save the Date

GrACE EICS Parent Conference

Rooted in Faith: Empowering Parents and Strengthening Catholic Schools.

A conference for parents with children in (or looking into) publicly funded Catholic schools.

Fill out our interest form to stay up to date as details unfold.



As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we extend our warmest wishes to the students, families, and staff of Elk Island Catholic Schools.

Christmas is a season of hope, light, and renewal. Within our Catholic school community, we see these virtues reflected daily in the kindness shown by our students, the dedication of our staff, and the unwavering support of our families.

As you gather with loved ones, our prayer is that you find time to rest and find peace in the stillness of the season.

To our staff, thank you for your tireless commitment to our mission of faith-filled learning. To our parents, thank you for your partnership and for the trust you place in us every day.

May the light of the stable in Bethlehem shine brightly in your hearts and homes this Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Wishing you a holy and Merry Christmas.

Yours in Christ,
Elk Island Catholic School Board of Trustees



TOFIELD CORNER

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish
5523 - 50 Street, Tofield AB**

**Mass at 11:00 am
on Christmas Day,
New Year's Day and
Every Sunday**

*** First Sunday of Every
Month is POTLUCK
after Mass!**



To post in the 'Tofield Corner'
contact Kathy by phone
780-270-8652 or email
Kathleen.Anderson.one@gmail.com



Our Family of Catholic Schools

ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Seeing Christ in Everyone

2026-2027 SCHOOL REGISTRATION

OPENS FEBRUARY 2

For more information:
eics.ab.ca



CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF ST. ISIDORE
Located in Sherwood Park

A Joyfully Catholic, Classical High School


Register Today

- Classical Catholic Curriculum
- Alberta High School Diploma
- Grades 9-12 - In-person & Online Pathways
- Prayer-Centred with Regular Mass
- Sacred Choral Music
- Small Class Sizes

chesterton.eics.ab.ca
780-449-6463

Scan to learn more

SPIRITUALITY INTELLECT CHARACTER



Cogito Academy at Madonna Catholic School
Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 4

Where Structure and Academic Excellence Meet

Visit our OPEN HOUSE January 22 @ 5:30 - 7:30pm
ALL ARE WELCOME!

15 Main Blvd. Sherwood Park
www.mcs.eics.ab.ca



2026-2027
Grades 1 to 12


TEACHER-SUPPORTED ONLINE CATHOLIC EDUCATION

REGISTER TODAY

- Flexible Scheduling
- One-on-One Teacher Support
- Adult Upgrading Available
- Summer School
- Outreach

silc.eics stisidoreeics eics

St. Isidore Learning Centre
310 BROADVIEW ROAD - SHERWOOD PARK






ST. THERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Theresa Catholic School is committed to ensuring that every student experiences success. Through rich programming, we engage minds, embrace faith, and empower our community.

PROGRAMMING IN GRADES 5-8 INCLUDES:

- ✓ Ukrainian Bilingual Program
- ✓ Sport for Life Program
- ✓ Performing Arts Program
- ✓ Flexible Pathways Program

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 2, 2026
stt@eics.ab.ca

Holy Spirit Catholic School

PreK/Kindergarten Open house
January 26, 2026 9-11 am

Come #GROW with us!

We offer:

- Catholic Education and Academic Excellence
- Faith based education open to all
- School wide celebrations, activities, and field trips
- Musical Theatre Option for Grades 3 & 4
- Technology in classrooms
- Full Day Kindergarten program
- Pre-K program
- Flexible Pathways program for complex learners
- Active Community Involvement
- Daily Physical Activities focused on Health and Wellness
- Family Wellness Support
- and so much more!

151 CRIMSON DRIVE
SHERWOOD PARK
780-416-9526
email.hs@eics.ab.ca
For more information
Follow us on Instagram
[@holy_spirit_eics](https://www.instagram.com/holy_spirit_eics)

ELK ISLAND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Seeing Christ in Everyone




What's Happening at OLPH

The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton

Pastoral Priorities **Eucharistic worship** **Confident witness** **service to Marriage & Family**

The First Sunday of every month is PASTORAL PRIORITIES SUNDAY at OLPH.
Sunday January 4, 2026

Join us for **Coffee & Treats** in the foyer after each Sunday Mass, and for

Family-Friendly Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

All are Welcome!
(Silence is NOT expected in the church during family-friendly Holy Hour.)




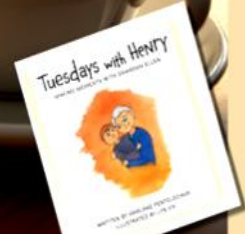
Compassionate Parish

Conversation Cafe!

The Compassionate Parish team invites you to join us for meaningful conversations on topics that are important to you. Each month, a guest speaker will help us explore a different topic relevant to our lives, faith, and community. Whether you're seeking information, a listening ear, or simply fellowship with others, Conversation Café is open to all.

Our next cafe is Sunday, February 8, 1:30 pm
(after the 12:30 mass) in the foyer hospitality area

Marlane Pentelechuk, will share her book, *Tuesday's With Henry: Making Moments with Grandma Ellen*, a simple story that shows how to involve young children in visits to loved ones with Alzheimer's and dementia.

Everyone Welcome
Sunday January 18, 2026

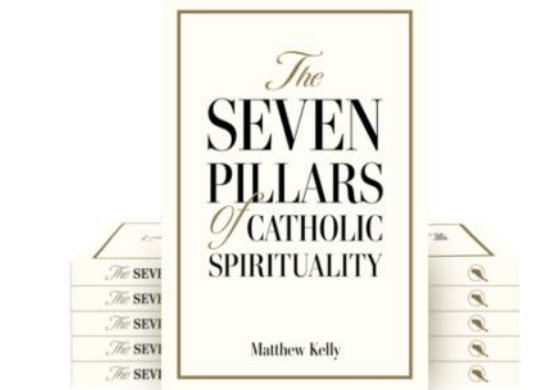
Pancake Breakfast

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus after the 8:30 am & 10:30 am Masses

\$9 per person or \$24 per family



Our Christmas Gift to You...



We continue our beautiful tradition of offering each OLPH family the gift of a book. Please pick up your copy when you attend Mass this Christmas!

Timeless Habits That Transform Lives

If your spiritual life were a house, what would it be like? What street would it be on? What part of town would it be in? What would it look like? Would it be a house or a home? Is it in need of renovations? Is it peaceful, noisy, distracting, well-organized, messy?

In *The Seven Pillars of Catholic Spirituality*, Matthew Kelly demonstrates the timeless genius of Catholicism by illustrating the practical and spiritual ways these ancient spiritual habits continue to enrich our daily lives today. Transforming people one at a time is at the heart of God's plan for the world. He has been using these seven habits to transform ordinary people into saints for a long time. *Are you willing to let God transform you?*



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday January 17
6:15 pm (after the Evening Mass)

PARISH POTLUCK & FAMILY DANCE

Dance to LIVE MUSIC by **THE BEACH BUOYS!**

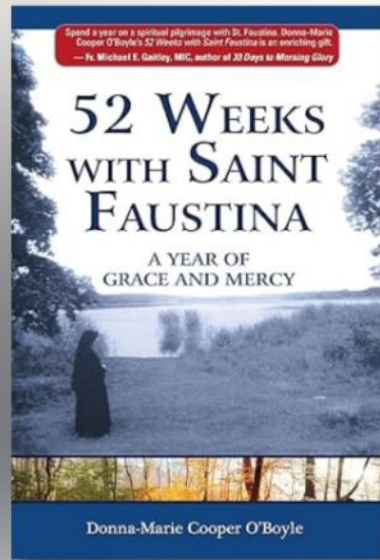
Fun Kids Activities & "Teen Zone"

Winter Party!



St. Faustina in a Year!

Book study online via Zoom



Let's journey together on a spiritual pilgrimage through the life and teachings of the Secretary and Apostle of Divine Mercy, St. Faustina Kowalska. Discover the grace and power of her spiritual path of mercy and trust. This book study consists of weekly readings and activities, along with monthly group discussions over the span of a year.

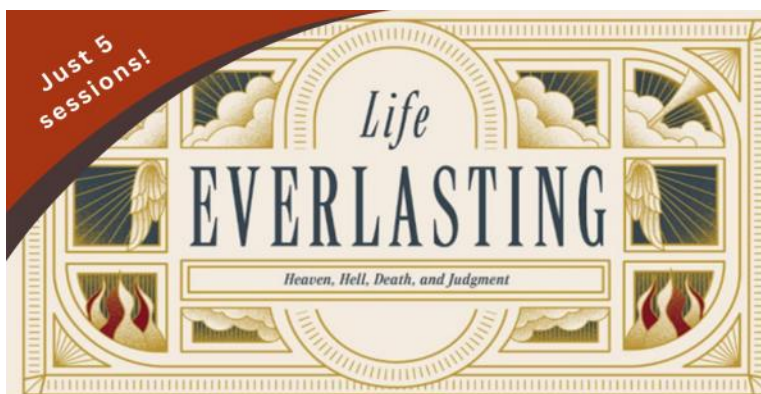
Monthly meetings:
4th Monday, 6:30-8:30 pm

First meeting:
January 26, 2026

To order the book for pick-up at OLPH parish, contact Michelle by January 5. The book can be ordered from Amazon or Sunrise Marian for home delivery. An e-version is also available on Amazon-Kindle.

To register, contact Michelle at michellemfoisy@gmail.com or cell 780-886-1338.

Registrations accepted until January 25



Tuesdays, January 27 to February 24

In-person at OLPH 2:00-3:30 pm

OR Online via Zoom 7:00-8:30 pm

As Catholics, we believe the end of this life isn't the end of the story: It's just the beginning. This five-session study explores the teachings about what truly awaits us in the world to come, after this life is over. Each session includes powerful videos, easy-to-follow readings, group discussion and practical application, to help you understand what the Church teaches about the last things, and why these truths are meant to fill you with hope.

Facilitator: Alana LaPerle, MTS

Cost: Free (hardcopy workbook or online access available for purchase)

To register: contact Alana at alaperle@telus.net or call/text 780-446-9009



Grief as a Journey

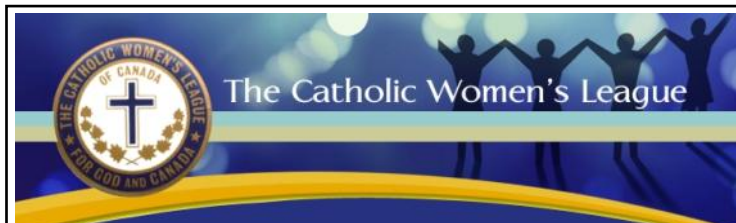
When we experience loss of a loved one, we need to grieve. OLPH offers a ten-week program called "Grief as a Journey", open to anyone who feels they may benefit from it.



Monday Afternoons
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

January 12 - March 23, 2026
(excluding Family Day on February 16)

*To register for the upcoming session, please call the Parish Office 780-467-5470 or email info@olph.ca.



Our theme for 2026 & 2027 is
Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission

Our membership drive for 2026 continues... annual membership is \$40. Contact Arlene or Pana with regards to obtaining a membership at membership@cwloolph.ca.

Next General Meeting:

Monday, January 12

6:30 pm in the Meeting Room

- * This is our Annual General Meeting and our Budget for the year will be set. It is also election time! Please discern if you can help fill a role.
- * For more information, or if you need a ride to the meeting, email info@cwloolph.ca

Come join us and bring a friend! All women welcome.

Are you being called to the Catholic Church?

Whether you are just curious or already feel a deep hunger for communion with our Lord and His Church, RCIA is for you! In this journey of Christian formation, non-baptized people or people baptized in another Christian tradition, will explore the fullness of the Catholic faith while growing ever deeper in love with Jesus Christ.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

For more information contact Billy at bspindle@shaw.ca or 780-990-7981



Wednesday Mornings
9:15 am - Noon

Open to ALL, for pre-school children ages 13 months to 5 years.

Advance sign-up required. Weekly fee \$5/child or \$6/family (Funds are donated to the Women's Shelter in Sherwood Park)
Email Vanessa at mmorningout@gmail.com to Sign Up or to Volunteer.



Register Today!



OLPH Parish

Grade 7 and up! Bring a friend!

Email: nlavigne@olph.ca
www.olph.ca



Parents, our next session of Preparation Classes at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish will be starting in January. Please contact the Church now to register your child for their Sacraments.

Email: sacraments@olph.ca

Grade 2 and up ~ First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion
Grade 6 and up ~ Sacrament of Confirmation

Sacraments & Liturgical Ministries



BAPTISM

Baptism Preparation Classes are held the Second Tuesday of each month, starting with Mass at 6:15pm, followed by the Classroom Session. Both Parents must attend. Godparents also welcome. (Next class January 13, 2026)

Additional preparation will be provided for families with children age 7 and older.

Baptism Celebrations take place the 3rd & 4th Sundays of each month at 2:30 pm. To have your child baptized, contact Jenny at 780-467-5470 or email info@olph.ca

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

First Reconciliation must be completed before First Holy Communion, so preparation for these two sacraments is offered together, for families with children in Grade 2 or older. Email Natalie at sacraments@olph.ca to register.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation preparation is a 3 month program based on **Worship, Witness & Service** for youth in Grade 6 or older, together with a parent and/or sponsor. **Classes for 2026 begin in February and Confirmation Mass will be Sunday May 3, 2026.** Email Natalie at sacraments@olph.ca to register or to learn more.

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK

Daytime: Please contact Fr. Jim on his cell phone 780-470-2730. After hours: Please call the Parish Office at 780-467-5470 and follow the instructions to connect with the priest On-Call.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Engaged? Congratulations! Contact Angie at 780-467-5470 or email angelina.dewolfe@olph.ca to schedule your **Pre-Nuptial Meet & Greet** with Fr. Jim and find a Marriage Preparation Course. **Irregular (non-Catholic) Marriage?** Contact Fr. Jim directly 780-470-2730 as a first step. *(Be at peace, everything is fixable.)*



<https://www.olph.ca/parishlife/liturgical-ministries/>

"What if your voice could help someone HEAR God for the first time?"

Each time Scripture is proclaimed, God speaks anew - and YOUR voice could be the one that brings His Word to life for someone who needs to hear it.



Three Facts About the Proclaimers' Ministry:

1. **You become the living voice of Scripture.** Proclaimers don't just read - they bring God's Word from the page to the heart, helping the congregation encounter Christ in the Liturgy of the Word.
2. **Training and support are provided.** No experience is necessary - we'll help you grow in confidence and skill so you can proclaim with reverence and joy.
3. **It's one of the most meaningful ways to serve at Mass.** As a Proclaimer, you share directly in the Church's mission of evangelization, giving witness through your prayer, preparation, and presence.



Are you looking for a way to serve our parish community that is vitally important yet more "behind the scenes"?

If so, please consider becoming an Usher at OLPH!

Ushers are dedicated to serving our parishioners by:

- providing an atmosphere of welcome, warmth, community and friendship
- maintaining an environment of decorum and respect
- ensuring people feel valued and appreciated

Have you ever felt a calling to share the profound gift of Christ's presence in the Holy Eucharist?



We welcome you to join us in being an **Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist** at our OLPH Masses. This liturgical ministry offers the privilege of being a loving vessel through whom the Body of Christ is shared with our parish family. Volunteering is a tangible way to express gratitude for God's many blessings and to strengthen your own faith journey. Training will be provided and so all you need is a willingness to serve and a sincere belief in the Sacrament.

What's Happening at OLPH

Knights of Columbus®

CALLING ALL MEN! JOIN US!

What does it mean to be a Knight?

We are Catholic Men who **LEAD, SERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND.** We share a desire to be better **HUSBANDS, FATHERS, SONS, NEIGHBORS AND ROLE MODELS** and to put charity and community first.

Help us serve, protect and defend those in need. Join 1.9 million Catholic men on a path where faith leads the way.

Contact Grand Knight Daryl B. 780-467-9222 to learn more about K of C membership.

Archbishop MacDonald Council 6083 in Sherwood Park wish all parishioners a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

We thank all the families in OLPH parish for supporting the many works of the Knights of Columbus. This includes your support of the **Chili Fest** held in October, and your purchase of raffle tickets for the **Grocery Gift Card Raffle** that concluded with draws on December 16. In 2026, the **Valentines Dinner & Dance** returns to OLPH Church after a short break. We are excited to be able to announce this, because Valentine's Day falls on Saturday this coming year and we are planning a very special evening for you! More information will follow the first weekend in January with specific information on the event and the cost of tickets. The Knights of Columbus continue with our famous **Pancake Breakfasts**, coming up on January 18, April 19, and the big special Mother's Day edition. *May God bless you and shine upon you during this festive season, as we celebrate the birth of Christ.*



HELP LINE 780-416-0931
Press 1 to Request HELP
Press 2 to DONATE

Thank you & Merry Christmas from SSVP!

It is the season of Christmas, of Christ coming to us; which allows us to reflect on giving to others and that we are sent in charity to serve Christ in the poor, or marginalized, with love and respect, bringing them hope and joy.

SSVP is able to carry out our work because of the prayers and generous support of Father Jim, our parish staff, our parishioners and the many volunteers who have so tirelessly worked to ensure the poor are served. Your gifts make it possible for us to serve the poor in the greater community of Strathcona County, and in the many programs in conjunction with our OLPH parish in service to St. Paul, Saddle Lake Outreach, North of 60, and in Ukraine.

Our sincere thanks to all who have enormously supported the works of this conference! We wish you and your families a very blessed and happy Christmas. *May the peace of Christ fill your holiday season with love and joy.*



Congratulations to our SSVP Sherwood Park Conference on being selected to receive a \$7000 donation from the community group 100 Women Who Care in Sherwood Park this fall. *"The work that you do in our community is not only generous to those in need, but inspiring for the rest of us looking to do good,"*

Join us in praying the Rosary at 4:15 pm every Saturday before the 5:00 pm Mass.



MARY'S SERVANTS FOR CHRIST

We are a growing ministry at OLPH parish focused on serving Jesus through Mary. Consider joining us in the New Year.

Please contact Maureen maureenregel@gmail.com or Myrtle angelintouch@hotmail.com

JETS = java, exercise, talk and service =



2026 Flight Schedule for the JETS to be released in the new year

We would like to invite you, as a lovely woman of the parish, to check out the new sessions we have planned for 2026.

The full description will be available in January but for now, you can look forward to such

exotic destinations as a Valentine's service, tour of the Holy Cross Mausoleum, an exquisite Morning of Art, Spiritual Session out in Nature, Road trip to the Basilian Museum in Mundare, and so many more! Intrigued? We have a first-class ticket ready for you and always offer complimentary in-flight beverages and snacks. No reservation necessary. Just meet us at our Boarding Gate (*aka. Large Meeting Room*) most Friday mornings.

For more details, please contact the Co-Captains of JETS: Nancy at 780-464-5356 or Aida at issaaida33@yahoo.com.

May we also take this moment to wish each of you a blessed and peace-filled Christmas.



Merry Christmas my Friends!

Gratitude, in so many ways, is the gift the keeps on giving. When one is thankful, when we have gratitude in our hearts, there is little room for some of the more unwelcome attributes - like resentment, grudges etc. When we have hearts full of gratitude, the world is a pretty good place. The truth, and we all know this, is that we have much to be thankful for; including the challenges we encounter, that are “growth moments” in our Lord’s continuous formation plan for each of us.

This Advent season has been an interesting time for me. The weeks have flown by, and here we are at the grand finale. **The Nativity of our Lord** begins the thirty-year concluding chapter in God’s masterpiece of **Salvation History**. This chapter culminates in the death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven of our Lord Jesus; the moment when once again the gates of heaven are thrown open for all of God’s children. This closing chapter of salvation history is the pinnacle of the greatest plan ever put into place: God’s salvific plan for humanity; the greatest story ever told.

One of the things that I am profoundly grateful for is the gift of serving as pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish, and St. Francis of Assisi parish in Tofield. OLPH has flourished after the pandemic time. One of the things that became quite evident with the pandemic, was that it is far easier to shut down activities, than it is to start them up again. Over the past few years, the parishioners and team here at OLPH have worked diligently and joyfully, to re-engage with many wonderful, faith-based activities. In some ways, it seems we were looking/searching for purpose and meaning post-covid. There has been much incredibly positive rebuilding activity in the life of our parish these past years. This, in large part, is what makes me so grateful. Our parish is flourishing.

It has been suggested to me, that the candles of Advent might provide imagery for the many activities that take place on a weekly basis here in the parish. So here we go with a non-comprehensive list of activities, listed only as examples, as they relate to the four weeks of Advent.

Week One, Candle of Hope: St. Vincent de Paul Society. The Clothing Nook. Compassionate Parish initiative. Grief as a Journey program. Altar Servers ministry. Calix. GiFT (Growing in Faith Together - with a multitude of faith formation opportunities.) Parish office open seven days a week, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. for service to all.



Week Two, Candle of Peace: Reconciliation available twice daily. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament several hours a week (including Family-Friendly Holy Hour every First Sunday.) Daily Rosary six days a week. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Day of Confession twice a year.

Week Three, Candle of Joy: Our quarterly Potluck Dinners. Knights of Columbus pancake breakfasts. CWL Strawberry Tea and Fabulous Fall Market. Pastoral Priorities Sunday hospitality and treats after all Masses. Vacation Bible Camp. Youth Retreats with FacetoFace Ministries. Teen Youth Friday Nights. Moms’ Morning Out. Potlucks at St. Francis of Assisi every First Sunday.

Week Four, Candle of Love: The Holy Mass twice a day, every day. Ten Catholic Schools in our Sherwood Park Family of Schools, with weekly classroom visits. Eight seniors’ residential centers, with Mass at least twice a month. Maintenance and housekeeping teams of capable, dedicated volunteers - indoors and outdoors - all year round.

I suppose that some of the above-mentioned areas of ministry overlap into various other “candle categories.” Really, I am just using Advent as an excuse to highlight the great activities within our parish community. My friends, it has always been my experience that when you engage in an activity or event, in an intentional way, you benefit far more than from a sideline vantage point. If you are not presently a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish, or St. Francis in Tofield, please ask yourself, *why not?* If it is a geography thing, I get it. If it is because you have not prioritized your faith journey, well, we can assist with that. On the front page of this bulletin is an uncomplicated way to register and begin the process of engaging with your faith, and your community, in a more efficacious way.

My dear friends, we have much that is good happening here at OLPH. Much that will assist you in growing in a deeper, and more meaningful relationship with our Lord and Savior, with others and with yourself. Please enjoy this special edition (collectors’ item) bulletin. But more than that, please peruse it, and see where the Holy Spirit is guiding you on your journey of faith in the here and now; with the goal of spending eternity in the presence of the glory of God in the next.

May our Lord bless you, and keep you and yours. We wish you a **Blessed Happy, Healthy, and Holy Merry Christmas** and a joyful year of our Lord, 2026.

Fr. Jim

JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR

28 DEC *Mass*
10:30 AM, December 28
St. Joseph’s Basilica

All are welcome to attend

To be installed January 23, 2026

We joyfully welcome
✠ ARCHBISHOP-DESIGNATE
STEPHEN HERO

There will be VERY limited seating at St. Joseph’s Basilica for the installation Mass. OLPH will host a **LIVESTREAM WATCH PARTY** at 7:00 pm on Friday January 23.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton

The OLPH Clothing Nook will re-open for shoppers starting Tuesday January 6, 2026
ALL ITEMS ARE ALWAYS FREE OF CHARGE

Donations of clean, gently used clothing, shoes and linens are always welcome. Drop off next to the elevator during regular parish business hours 7:30 am - 7:30 pm daily.

Now that we have our new roof and new sanctuary floor, we are ready to begin RENOVATIONS to the rest of our Nave!

The work will be starting January 3, through to the end of March. The scope of these improvements include:

- Repairing the drywall ceilings on the east and west sides of the church
- Painting the ceilings and walls
- Installing new rubber floors in the aisles
- Installing carpet tiles under the pew areas, in the transepts and elevated platform

During this work, weekday Masses (8:30 am and 6:15 pm) will be held down in the Parish Hall. Saturday 5:00 pm and all Sunday Masses will remain up in the Sanctuary.
Please see next Sunday’s bulletin for further details.

The Calix Society
We substitute the cup that sanctifies for the cup that stupefies

Calix is an association of Catholic alcoholics, drug addicts, and family members and friends affected by addiction, who are maintaining their sobriety through participation in their Catholic faith and a 12 Step program.

A monthly meeting will be held on the last Tuesday of each month at OLPH Parish in Sherwood Park. Mass begins at 6:15PM, followed by fellowship and the Calix meeting at 7:15PM in the St. Joan room.

For more information about Edmonton Unit meetings, contact us at: edmcalthsecretary@shaw.ca

For more about CALIX visit: <http://www.calixcanada.org/>

Hope & Dignity

A Catholic response to
Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

For more information, visit:
hopeanddignity.caedm.ca

Prayer for Those Tempted by Assisted Suicide or Despair

Loving God, You are the source of all life and the healer of every broken heart. Look with mercy on those who face unbearable suffering and are tempted toward assisted suicide. Grant them patient endurance and the unwavering support of family, friends, and caregivers. Help them to see Your presence in their pain, as You were with Your Son on the Cross. Surround them with compassionate care that honors their dignity, eases their burdens, and affirms the sacred value of every moment of life. May they find peace in Your promise of eternal healing. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.