

St. Vital Catholic Parish

4905-50 St, Beaumont, Ab. T4X 1J9

780-929-8541

e-mail: St.vitalchurch@shaw.ca

Pastor: Fr. Les Drewicki

Deacon: Dan Ritchie (778-228-3633)

Secretary: Jeanette Gariepy

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday 5:00 p.m. (English) Sunday 9:00 a.m. (bilingual) 11:00 a.m. (English)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday, December 5th – Thursday, December 7th @ 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday's - 11 a.m. – noon or by appointment by contacting Fr. Les

ADORATION – Friday, December 8th Noon – 8:00 p.m.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Thursday, December 14th @ 6:30

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.

All parishioners are invited to come and experience the joy of God's love and mercy!

Check out the website www.saintvitalparish.com and check it regularly for updates.

Loan Balance October 31st, 2023 \$521,334.59

SCAMALERT – No one from St. Vital Parish will EVER send you emails asking for money or gift cards or other favors. Beware of fake email address pretending to be someone from the parish

PARKING

Avoid receiving a ticket. Parking is prohibited east of 50 St. on 50 Ave. where the curb is painted yellow

Parishioners: If you notice any repair or maintenance issues in the church that require attention please contact the parish office.

Our Condolences

Our sympathies are extended this week to the family of John and Rita Lopez of our parish. John passed away suddenly on Wednesday, Nov 29th. The Funeral Mass for John will be held in St. Vital Church on Friday, Dec. 8 at 10:30 am. Please note that the Mass normally scheduled for 9:00 am has been cancelled for that day. Adoration will begin sometime in the noon hour after the Cemetery Service has been completed. May he rest in peace.

Blank schedules for Christmas & New Year's Eve Masses are at the back of the church. **Please sign up for the masses you will be attending.**

ST. VITAL CWL CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK – Dec. 2nd and 3rd, after all the weekend Masses.

We'll bring the cookies, you walk around and buy them!

\$2.50/ bag of 6 delicious homemade cookies! Please join us!

*anyone willing to bake and donate cookies for the sale, please bring them to the church Dec. 2 before the 5 pm Mass.

Thank you! Questions? contact Megan Testa 780-278-6253

Lady of the Hill Knights of Columbus will be selling **Sobey and No Frills gift cards** after all masses on the weekend. Buy your grocery cards and support Our Lady of the Hill Knights.

Thank you to Carmen Grayson, organizer/chairperson of the Snowflake Daze Tourtière Sale, volunteers and customers for a successful tourtière sale. Profit of \$10,077.66 was donated for Pay Down the Debt.

Christmas Eve Children's Nativity Play (4:00 p.m. Mass)

Sign up sheets will be available next weekend. Practices will be after the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Masses starting in December.

MUSIC AT ST. VITAL'S

Beaumont Society for the Arts Christmas Concert – Friday, December 15th @ 7:00 p.m.

Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir – Sunday, December 17th @ 3:00 p.m.

Admission is free, however, donations to the Beaumont/Nisku Christmas Elves are accepted as either unwrapped toys, food donations or cash donations.

Keep Christ in Christmas Coloring Contest

The Knights of Columbus are once again sponsoring a “**Keep Christ in Christmas Coloring Contest**” for parish youth in Grades 1 – 9. There are first, second, and third place cash prizes for three different age groups. You will need to pick up a form from the table at the back of the church, which provides all the rules and includes an entry form that must be attached to each child's artwork. The **deadline** for submitting artwork is **Sunday, December 17, just two weeks from now.**

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study THE EUCHARIST – every second Monday – November 20, December 4 – Christmas Break – Bible Study resumes on January 8th, 2024.

For information or questions please call Claire Connell 780 887-0468.

Beaumont Nisku Christmas Elves

Donate Today

Please drop your donation in the bin in the Church vestibule.

They accept a variety of food donations, new toys, gift cards, monetary donations.



Alpha

Alpha is finished for 2023, but we want to invite you (and your friends and family) to Alpha in January 2024. Alpha is a place to explore the Christian faith with others. Each session has time for connection, a talk, and space to discuss and ask questions. - It is designed for people without a church background or who wouldn't call themselves a Christian but everyone and anyone will get something from these engaging talks

There are 4 sessions left plus the retreat on the Holy Spirit!! Even if you missed the first sessions please still join us! The dates are Jan 22 and 29 and Feb 12 and 19th with the retreat Saturday Feb 3! We meet from 6- 8 pm. We meet in the Parish Basement and it is a **Potluck Dinner**.

Please come! No registration is required. Email Theresa at jordan.theresa@gmail.com if you have any questions.

CATHOLIC CITIZENSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest for the first time. The contest is open to Grades 8 through 12 students. The essays are to be 500-750 words on the topic: "How Can the Church Evangelize in the Digital Age?" Judging is based on a point system up to 100 based on Content, Grammar and Style. We will be offering 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes of \$100.00, \$50.00 and \$25.00 respectively. Winners will be eligible for further District, National and International competition. Contest Entry Forms are available at the back of Church and on the Parish website under the Knights of Columbus tab.

Final submission date is January 15, 2024.

Meaning & Symbolism of the Advent Candles

Advent candles shine brightly in the midst of darkness, symbolizing and reminding us that Jesus came as Light into our dark world. The candles are often set in a circular Advent wreath. In Scandinavia, Lutheran churches light a candle each day of December; by Christmas, they have twenty-four candles burning. Another Advent candle option is a single candle with twenty-four marks on the side--the candle is lit each day and allowed to melt down to the next day's mark.

The most common Advent candle tradition, however, involves four candles around the wreath. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-colored. Sometimes all the candles are red; in other traditions, all four candles are blue or white. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.

- The **first candle** symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The purple color symbolizes royalty, repentance, and fasting.
- The **second candle** represents faith and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David. The second candle is also purple to symbolize preparation for the coming king.
- The **third candle** symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. This candle is colored pink to represent joyfulness and rejoicing.
- The **fourth candle** represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again. This color is also purple to represent the culmination of love through the Messiah.
- The (optional) fifth candle represents light and purity and is called "Christ's candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day. This candle is white to represent pure light and victory.

A Prayer for the First Sunday of Advent

Father, let your hope arise in our hearts!

Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are where our hope comes from.

Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year.

May we pause to remember that we have **hope** in you.

You know the end of our stories, and we give thanks because you have promised that it will be a victorious ending.

Give us the grace we need to wrap up this year joyfully.

We invite your Spirit into this beautiful Advent season.

Renew our sense of holy anticipation!

Let us be those who are waiting eagerly for Jesus to come again.

More than anything, we ask that you be glorified in this season of expectation.

Amen



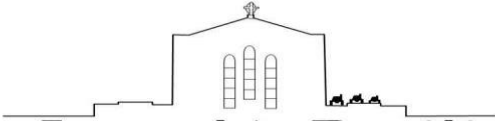
Come and See Weekend at St. Joseph Seminary



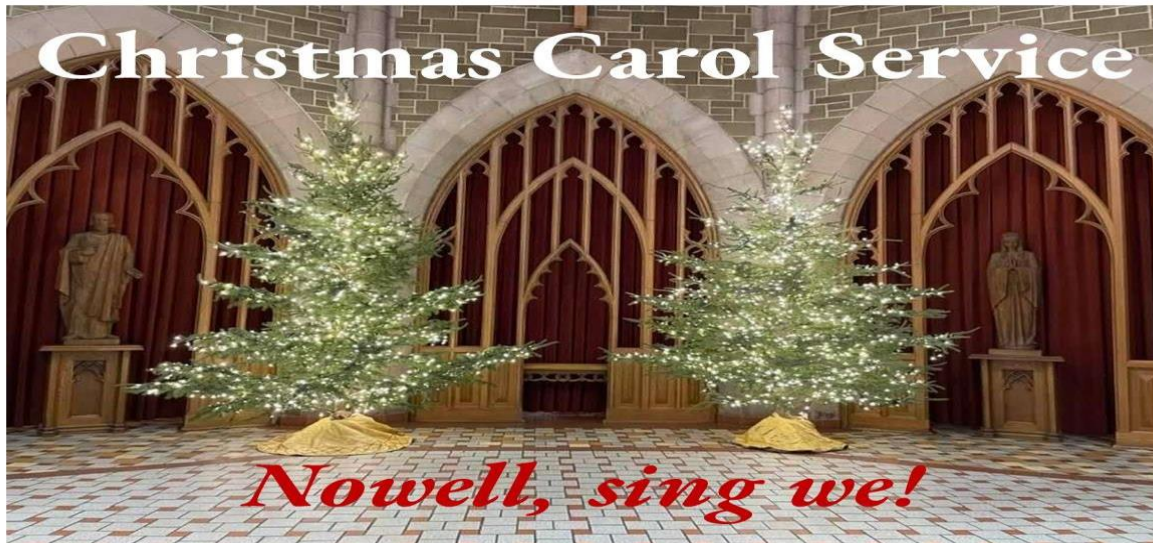
Are you thinking of becoming a Priest? Not sure about your vocation? Or just curious? Here is your opportunity to have a live-in experience at St. Joseph Seminary on your discernment journey.

We are hosting this annual weekend on January 26-28, 2024.

To register please contact Father Kris Schmidt, the Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Edmonton, first at Kris.Schmidt@caedm.ca or by calling 780-672-1131 Ext. 3.



St Joseph's Basilica



Wednesday, December 20th | 7pm.

Join us to celebrate the Birth of Christ at St Joseph's Basilica with Advent and Christmas carols sung by the Schola Cantorum. The whole community is welcome to join us for this joyful Christmas celebration!

Goodwill Donations Accepted.