**Mass Intentions**

Saturday, December 2nd –**+** Daniel Fleming

Sunday, December 3rd – (9:00 a.m.) **+** Thérèse Dufresne

11:00 a.m. **+** Alvin Shea

**Advent Penitential Service – Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m.**

**Our Lady of the Hill K of C**

Selling **Sobeys and No Frills Grocery Cards** at the back of the church after all masses

**Mass with Healing Service** Sunday December 3, 2017 Starts at 6:30 pm with Praise & Worship, Holy Mass to Follow Celebrants: Rev. Fr. Matthew Hyssell and Rev. Fr. Daniel Tshimbalanga Musakay St. Joachim Parish, 9928 - 110 St. Edmonton, AB Sponsored by Catholic Renewal Services of Edmonton (587)989-0483

There are still a few items for sale from the Parish Snowflake Bazaar - themed gift baskets and gift mugs for your Christmas shopping - please come downstairs to check them out after all the Masses this weekend or call Karen (780) 929-8728

Adopt a Parishioner for Christmas.   Will you be home alone for Christmas? We have families who are willing and would feel privileged to

open up their homes and welcome you to celebrate Christmas with them.  If you are single, young or older, a couple or a family with children PLEASE contact: Adelle either by email:   adellemadu@gmail.com or phone 780 929-5788. We are also still taking names for host families.

The Knights of Columbus are again making “Keep Christ in Christmas” car/fridge magnets available to parishioners. They are available in both French and English at a cost of $5 each. Pick up yours at the grocery gift card table at the back of the church.

New bible study on Mary Virgin, Mother and Queen, a bible study for Catholics by Father Mitch Pacwa and Video by Matthew Leonard. The resource material will be approximately $16.00. If interested please contact Eunice (780-929-6579)or Claire (789-928-6479) as soon as possible as book will need to be ordered. Thank you

**2018 Donation envelopes** may be picked up at the back of the church. If you have not used envelopes previously and would like a set, please contact the parish office.

**Come Listen to the Music (St. Vital Parish)**

December 8th (7:00 p.m.) BSA – A Community Choral Concert

December 9th (1:00 p.m.) Enchanted Xmas Afternoon of Music

December 14th (7:30 p.m.) Swiss Men’s Choir

***Free concerts – everyone welcome to attend.***

The BSA presents **Christmas Celebration** at **7:00 p.m. , Friday, December 29th** at St. Vital Parish.

Tickets: $10/single $25/family. Tickets available at Eventbrite.ca or at the door.

December 12 is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe,Patroness of all America (North South and Central.)

You are invite to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with Archbishop Richard Smith and members of the First Nations,Metis,and Inuit communities. Please come and join us on December 12th at St.Joseph's Basilica. Rosary led in 5 languages at 6pm and Mass at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

**Hymns & Readings at the Basilica**

Please join the St. Joseph's College community for our annual  Hymns & Readings  event on **Sunday, December 3**, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Basilica. The evening will include Scripture readings, music by the Greenwood Singers and a featured organist, with a reception to follow in O'Leary Hall. This event is open to all, with entry by donation.  Please contact  sjcdev@ualberta.ca  or 780-492-0903 for more information, or you can register [online through the U of A website](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001YtZCDNhssjIRUM9xqIGNxyRMYS9IwJ7YnMQ-4Wko21K0UyZdFkuLcV1Tg21sOWPUyj0rL2YBOA1Mffz2oBf6GCo9017-Bs2ewG54M_h9ZA72fHQ_qBRkHBdGd0IPBQIxfS5avimsiXzADq2vIfzmSkDO9lEZgRKEG80OH0WEVLZk0IQzb8fLlHtntcuIeC3Jcs2aK3fxcmmsr6Tv2nnJqkBoRQuePDOyv9kzfvQtdt53Brpnh2Mh2e3orxo7OoLkeH2wYElnHTc=&c=eYwzYu5DVvnLOGuIr7SCs7qNdbRbA0FMn9UWh2rdKOth8QdY_VWTjQ==&ch=IT9XT1d6P1BfDw3vg2GHbjn5JJUxUEyDpK-BgQNeICV6WPsRXDmbMw==).

**'Hear the Word of God and Do It'**

**Living in the Word**  ̶ It is important that spouses find time and ways to pray together and that parents and children together do the same. The heart of that family prayer should be the Word of God, who speaks to us in the varied circumstances of our lives. Perhaps, in addition to a candle, a Bible could be "enthroned" on a stand or table.

(Archbishop Smith, *Pastoral Letter, September 14, 2017*)

[https://caedm.ca/Letter](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001YtZCDNhssjIRUM9xqIGNxyRMYS9IwJ7YnMQ-4Wko21K0UyZdFkuLcV1Tg21sOWPURvHW-vLNSvzpav9Yf1GxZ44OSWW2iVg5ok1StoV1xgavYGBpCh1s4U3tvsZEzBK3jJ3jPBlZUJqXqAFX-F20Hw==&c=eYwzYu5DVvnLOGuIr7SCs7qNdbRbA0FMn9UWh2rdKOth8QdY_VWTjQ==&ch=IT9XT1d6P1BfDw3vg2GHbjn5JJUxUEyDpK-BgQNeICV6WPsRXDmbMw==)

**Deadline for Confirmation Registrations – Monday, December 4th.**

The **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** is **requesting donations** of furniture to assist them in helping families in need. Items most needed: kitchen tables and chairs and dressers; all items gratefully accepted. Please phone 780-984-0069 to donate, or for more information. Thank You.

The **ladies of the St. Vital CWL** are sponsoring a **clothing** **donation drive for the Marian Centre.**  As the snow begins to fly, the Marian Centre appeals for your help. Men living on the streets of Edmonton are in need of ***warm clothes, including used jeans (esp 30 to 34”waist), long johns, winter coats, hoodies, winter boots***. They also need new underwear, travel size deodorant, and men’s razors.

**Attention Snowbirds**

Please consider signing up for Pre- Authorized Debits at the parish office before you head south for the winter. You can register in person at the parish office or fill out the forms available at the back of the church. Thank you for your continued generosity to St. Vital Parish. We couldn’t do it without you.

**Christmas/New Years Masses**

**Sunday, December 24th**

3:30 p.m. Children’s Nativity Play

4:00 p.m. Mass

6:30 p.m. Mass

9:00 p.m. Mass (Bilingual)

**Monday, December 25th**

10:00 a.m. Mass

**Sunday, December 31st New Years Eve**

5:00 p.m. Mass

**Monday, January 1st**

10:00 a.m.

This year Christmas Eve falls on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. The Sunday Masses on December 23, 24 will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent with the beautiful Gospel of the Annunciation: the angel Gabriel’s visit to Mary. The Vatican and the Archdiocese of Edmonton encourage Catholics to celebrate the birth of Christ on Christmas Day whenever possible.

**Just a reminder: Christmas Eve or Christmas Day is a Holy Day of Obligation in Canada, as is, every Sunday. As such, the 4th Sunday of Advent cannot be replaced by Christmas Masses. We encourage you to make every effort to attend both Masses. The 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas.**

**The Four Weeks of Advent**

During the first two weeks of Advent we light the first purple candles.

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday.

On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day is almost over.

Rose is a liturgical color that is used to signify Joy, so we light the single pink candle on the Third Sunday of Advent.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the soon coming birth of the King of Kings.

Traditionally, each of the four Advent candles have a deeper meaning which is depicted in the Four Weeks of Advent Wreath:

The 1st Sunday of Advent symbolized Hope with the

“Prophet’s Candle” reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The 2nd Sunday of Advent symbolized Faith with the

“Bethlehem Candle” reminding us of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

The 3rd Sunday of Advent symbolizes Joy with the

“Shepherd’s Candle” reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolized Peace with the

“Angel’s Candle” reminding us of the message of the angels:

“Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”