The parish office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon. Voicemails and e-mails are checked daily.

**Sacrament Preparation:** As per Archbishop Richard Smith’s Directives, all in-person sacrament preparation classes including preparation for the sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation have been suspended until the COVID-19 pandemic has passed and we can safely join together again in preparation for and celebration of the sacraments. Please check the St. Vital website for future updates.

**FEAST OF THE ASCENSION...**

The Ascension does not point to Jesus’ absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is no longer in a specific place in the world as he was before the Ascension. He is now in the lordship of God, present in every space and time, close to each one of us. In our life we are never alone: we have this Advocate who awaits us, who defends us. We are never alone: The Crucified and Risen Lord guides us.

**A message from Archbishop Richard Smith**

The Catholic Bishops of Alberta remain committed to the gradual reinstatement of public celebrations of the Mass and welcome the recent release of the Guidance for Places of Public Worship document as part of the provincial government’s relaunch strategy. These guidelines are being carefully considered by the task force that the Bishops have established under the direction of Archbishop Richard Smith of Edmonton and Bishop William McGrattan of Calgary. The task force is drafting for the Bishops a set of directives for the gradual reintroduction of Masses in public. The Bishops will present these to Alberta’s Chief Medical Officer of Health. The proposed directives will take into consideration the information that will be received from the Telephone Town Hall with the Premier and the Chief Medical Officer scheduled for Thursday, May 21. No date will be set for the resumption of public liturgies in our Catholic churches and institutions until the Bishops are satisfied that their own directives can be fully and properly implemented. Any announcement of the date for the gradual reintroduction will be made at least five days before the first scheduled Mass. Parishes by then will have received diocesan guidelines which help ensure the safety of everyone. “It is critical that we understand the risks and take steps in minimizing the spread of COVID-19 through prudent planning,” said Bishop McGrattan. “The health and safety of our parishioners, priests, and church staff are of utmost importance. Each and every life is a precious gift from God, and we are called to do everything in our power to protect them. This has been a tremendous sacrifice on the part of the faithful who strongly desire to celebrate the Eucharist in their parish communities. We are grateful for their cooperation, their patient endurance, and especially for their prayers.”

Richard W. Smith

Archbishop of Edmonton

**ALBERTA'S RELAUNCH STRATEGY AND OUR PARISHES**

The government of Alberta has authorised [**Stage 1 of its Relaunch Strategy**](https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-relaunch-strategy.aspx). There are [**provisions specific to public worship**](https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/covid-19-relaunch-guidance-places-of-worship.pdf). The Archdiocese of Edmonton is coordinating its guidelines with government authorities as well as the other dioceses of Alberta (teleconference on May 21st) to ensure some uniformity in our approach, and the Archbishop will issue specific guidelines for parishes very soon. Thank you for your patience. Your health and safety are of great concern as we decide how best to move forward.

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| **DIRECTIVES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE:**  Distribution of Holy Communion outside of Mass is not permitted. Funerals and weddings may be celebrated, excluding Mass, only if prevailing medical directives can be followed. Arrangements are not to be finalized without first consulting the Chancery Office.  To limit the risk of spread of the virus, only a priest is to take Holy Communion to the sick. This should be limited to cases of serious illness.  **News from the Archdiocese**  Please google Quid Novum (Edmonton) for messages from Archbishop Richard Smith:  What to do without the Mass  Supporting our Parish  Message to the Elderly & Isolated Catholic Deaf Community  Message to Catechumens and Candidates  Elderly & Isolated Healthcare Workers  Catholic Educators Online Resources  Please visit The Archdiocese their website at http://caedm.ca/covid where they are posting information and resources of use during the pandemic. They will be updating regularly. |
| **Livestreamed Sunday Mass**  We invite the faithful to join celebrations of the Mass ‘virtually,’ through video livestreaming from their own parish or from St. Joseph’s Basilica with Archbishop Smith.  Sunday Mass at the Basilica is livestreamed at 10:30 a.m. each week. Find it on the [***Archdiocese of Edmonton Youtube Channel***](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001_nmY0iK0BAiTJGMJ0NsgYlL8fWYZYWeGyuc5i7XZx-jVUkzgC1RBgydOlheVCaS1PZQr1y67qBgyImRUfvOLPlzV6yAYqT9QZcg2YeX65FWxEuA8VHv787nCyvwtzhqwwN3IpQ2AW-878i1hEKhUHBHpocqxTAI2eZeubFda2s4tNzx1uIjVnGv5SRJOaYkV&c=gKlpgBYaGNZmti0-N2l0klnNkISU0PavIuEpBbtMdFsEz6OXvEmU6Q==&ch=PaU5JfOgxKAEkFf5nAxyatkuBW_KcXhNCg6nJ8XnWiYdispV0nxlJQ==)  or on Facebook at [***facebook.com/archedmonton***](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001_nmY0iK0BAiTJGMJ0NsgYlL8fWYZYWeGyuc5i7XZx-jVUkzgC1RBg6rSyKG2CihMPc0cfKa7eO0MHmpZ0VB3OOyxxxy6aOm0E9YfNLXBTln4FNZyMlB3UzQrEMrsctAmXXlamGzleAV7TVTlsvSKdEd18Bl48DgA&c=gKlpgBYaGNZmti0-N2l0klnNkISU0PavIuEpBbtMdFsEz6OXvEmU6Q==&ch=PaU5JfOgxKAEkFf5nAxyatkuBW_KcXhNCg6nJ8XnWiYdispV0nxlJQ==)  or Twitter  at [***twitter.com/archedmonton***](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001_nmY0iK0BAiTJGMJ0NsgYlL8fWYZYWeGyuc5i7XZx-jVUkzgC1RBgydOlheVCaS1espXfHpAj-n6UyPXkqeHPxMiDsqc-XaCwSIgFLkWqaJYdKQiE3g2slQ2B6MSJsCC8jcY3RF0l4-4ugVjRvRfk_SRoU2UzQA7&c=gKlpgBYaGNZmti0-N2l0klnNkISU0PavIuEpBbtMdFsEz6OXvEmU6Q==&ch=PaU5JfOgxKAEkFf5nAxyatkuBW_KcXhNCg6nJ8XnWiYdispV0nxlJQ==)  or on Telus Optik TV **Channel 876** (***note channel change***).  Visit [***grandinmedia.ca/livestream***](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001_nmY0iK0BAiTJGMJ0NsgYlL8fWYZYWeGyuc5i7XZx-jVUkzgC1RBg6rSyKG2CihMbNCAcK6C-KoQJbrhsKkKVSXwPYSsqrBY8OouK5yqOJdC53_YnYTem9Yor6k6BPbtVBCI8mnsQpB2yCLzSEPbXQagrLXilQG9&c=gKlpgBYaGNZmti0-N2l0klnNkISU0PavIuEpBbtMdFsEz6OXvEmU6Q==&ch=PaU5JfOgxKAEkFf5nAxyatkuBW_KcXhNCg6nJ8XnWiYdispV0nxlJQ==) to find links to livestream events across the Archdiocese. |

If you are a cable TV subscriber, you can access Salt+Light TV, Canada's Catholic network, for a nominal fee each month.

Or view online at [***saltandlighttv.org/live***](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001_nmY0iK0BAiTJGMJ0NsgYlL8fWYZYWeGyuc5i7XZx-jVUkzgC1RBgydOlheVCaS1h5CS2wWcXZrUa4p8ILpNQ6WyIUT7LmLxlsRHUZ5HzrgO8tc7PDHzsDQZY1P3hdWWH1A4rFYdY98qpX1qptgZPidFYLNnC5cFspc4B0KCKRQ=&c=gKlpgBYaGNZmti0-N2l0klnNkISU0PavIuEpBbtMdFsEz6OXvEmU6Q==&ch=PaU5JfOgxKAEkFf5nAxyatkuBW_KcXhNCg6nJ8XnWiYdispV0nxlJQ==).

**Daily TV Mass** is offered four times a day Monday to Saturday and twice a day on Sunday. (4:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 2 p.m., 8:30 p.m.)

**Daily Papal Mass**, celebrated by Pope Francis from Casa Santa Marta, airs daily at 7:45 a.m. MT.

Televised Mass is also available to those who subscribe to [***EWTN***](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001_nmY0iK0BAiTJGMJ0NsgYlL8fWYZYWeGyuc5i7XZx-jVUkzgC1RBg6rSyKG2CihM72JSIjQHC2XiSQH-4MZNQt7pKe2D-Yfjwqf4m2pdcKffBjvA-0JiX8PyaQmgpTjjs4OT6eM2AeMXa1LsebYoEnbGPe3xfdXx&c=gKlpgBYaGNZmti0-N2l0klnNkISU0PavIuEpBbtMdFsEz6OXvEmU6Q==&ch=PaU5JfOgxKAEkFf5nAxyatkuBW_KcXhNCg6nJ8XnWiYdispV0nxlJQ==) and [***Vision TV***](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001_nmY0iK0BAiTJGMJ0NsgYlL8fWYZYWeGyuc5i7XZx-jVUkzgC1RBg6rSyKG2CihMm-JgDXEd5VL2yXrKr8ck0QRjsd6KddOj_1E572SwQJpeAL1maqcbhNh1CVMD1ZliPtSuOwbCVANve5GbiHf7mNkr-hhCvrVc&c=gKlpgBYaGNZmti0-N2l0klnNkISU0PavIuEpBbtMdFsEz6OXvEmU6Q==&ch=PaU5JfOgxKAEkFf5nAxyatkuBW_KcXhNCg6nJ8XnWiYdispV0nxlJQ==). Click on the links for their schedules.

**Prayers of the Faithful – Sunday, May 24th, The Ascension of the Lord**

For all the members of the Church, especially those waiting for the sacraments of initiation.

For all who are unable to flee persecution, that they find safe refuge.

For the farmers and ranchers who provide the world’s food, that they receive a just reward for their labor.

For those who have lost loved ones, especially those effected directly or indirectly by COVID19, that they know the compassionate love of Jesus.

For those who have died this past week, that they rejoice in the heavenly banquet, especially Elvira James.

For the members of this community of faith, that they take seriously their baptismal call to service.

We have purchased some bulk **hand sanitizer**. Please make arrangements with the parish office if you require some. If possible please bring our own container.

The clothing drive that has been moved to October 3 & 4 (so perhaps parishioners can hold onto their clothing and household items until then).

**Stewardship is an important concept for our spiritual growth as Catholics.** It is a way of thanking God for all His blessings by prayerfully returning to Him a portion of the time, talent and treasure we have received. Today more than ever we need your help.

In the midst of these unprecedented times, we are blessed to have various ways to continue to support our parish in the absence of the Sunday Offertory. We invite you to review the following methods available to our parish and to pray how you might be able to help.

1. Consider setting up Pre-Authorized Giving. Contributions will be withdrawn from your bank account monthly. Complete the enclosed Pre Authorized Debit Agreement and email / mail to the parish office.

2. Mail your donation envelope in weekly to the parish office.

3. Drop your donation envelopes off at the parish office.

4 Visit the parish website to donate. Monthly donations can be set up using your credit card.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the parish office 780-929-8541

We would like to thank sincerely all those people who continue to support our parish with their Sunday collection, and also the people who willingly came forward to part take in the Pre-Authorized monthly Giving. We sincerely thank you and God bless you abundantly



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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | ***Veni Sancte Spiritus:***  **Pentecost Retreat and Novena**  This **May 23-31**, join Catholic clergy and youth ministry veterans for an online retreat as we prepare for Pentecost. This retreat will include livestreamed Masses, talks, Holy Hours, discussions, and a special episode of 'Left Footers' – all designed to prepare us to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.  In response to Pope Leo XIII's request in 1897 that we do so, we'll also pray an online novena (nine days of prayer) as "...a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian."  This online retreat, brought to you by the Vocations office of the Archdiocese of Edmonton, is open to any young person (teenager or young adult) who'd like to enrich their spiritual life, start or enhance their habits of prayer, and become the saints God created them to be. It is absolutely free of charge, and you can learn more about it – and register for it – at [***mikeisthird.com/veni***](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0019JI3v2YknWSUkgaa5Pfqjm3E-hg-Yj5bXgBe5BITr7tyTAOAyKU0lvehpqeE5mzBadpGYEx0AYdSUBCrh7HR4a9zWG2hNYGqgTRlUZKBEwQR7xRx8S79luW0QDHzOYirFsVCUQx2bzhZJISR2OIOcuhQsl06PNJI&c=k-5N9VmZ__Dbt26mRHiIt4tcdxg7NJWPEZs7I5D6ViRjQ2KkyZCKxg==&ch=JzAURdolPtnIHpbl6-1edDQFWzU4vmhENfGYS7F-f8lKMWNUBm_3sg==). | |

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

**Living in the Word**  ̶ ̶

The joy of the Gospel cannot be contained. Once we come to know Jesus Christ - his love, mercy and forgiveness - and the purpose of God to save the world in him, we cannot keep this experience of life, light and truth to ourselves. From the beginning of the Church, Christians have gone forth, urged on by the love of Christ (cf. *2Corinthians* 5:14), to be witnesses before the world to the saving purpose of God, to be, that is to say, convinced and joyful heralds of this good news to others.

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