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Dear [Contact.First Name],

I pray your Advent preparation is going well!

If you are looking for some real inspiration and fun at the same time, check out Good Shepherd Parish in west Edmonton this week. On Thursday, December 8, they are hosting internationally renowned speaker and author Chris Stefanick, and Catholic recording artist Jon Niven for a night called Reboot! Live! Starts at 7 p.m., call the parish for more details.

Our Quid Novum bulletin is changing once again -- the platform we were using changed to a new format on December 1, so you will notice a different look today. I ask for your patience as we learn the new format and work out the glitches. Hopefully we will sort it all out by next week ... we all embrace change, don't we?!

In the meantime, keep warm and keep preparing,

Lorraine

Office of the Archbishop

Grace this Week



As part of his Every Life Matters initiative, Archbishop Smith asks us all to heed the invitation of our Holy Father and embrace the custom of praying at mealtime, and to add to the usual Grace before meals one line from the Scripture and one line of prayerful response to it.

Grace with lines from the Readings of Sunday, December 4

Before the meal:

Leader: Lord Jesus, we thank you for your Word. John the Baptist calls us to prepare for the coming of Christ by true repentance. (Mt 3:1-12)

All: Help us by your mercy, Jesus, to change our lives and live only for you.

Together: Bless us, O Lord,
and these Thy gifts,
which we are about to receive
from Thy bounty.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

After the meal:

Leader: Lord Jesus, we thank you for your Word. Isaiah foretold you would come among us filled with the Spirit of God. (Isaiah 11:1-10)

All: Awaken within us, Jesus, the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may be agents of unity and peace in our world.

Together: We give you thanks, Almighty God,
for all your gifts,
who live and reign now and forever.
Amen

Canadian Bishops

Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples



In The Canadian Catholic Aboriginal Council has released a prayer of thanksgiving for families to mark the 2016 National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples, observed on **December 12**, the memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. The devotion dates to 1531 when the Blessed Mother appeared as an Aztec princess to a humble aboriginal peasant, Saint Juan Diego, at a place called the Hill of Tepeyac, which eventually became part of Villa de Guadalupe, a suburb of Mexico City.

Archbishop Smith will celebrate Mass at St. Joseph Basilica at 7 p.m. on **Monday, December 12** in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe, with prayers especially for members of our First Nations, Metis, and Inuit communities. All are welcome.

[Click here to download the 2016 prayer](#)

Chancery Office

Christmas Season Hours

Pastoral and Administration Offices

Friday, December 23 -- Open 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday, December 26 -- Closed (Boxing Day)

Tuesday, December 27 -- Closed (in lieu of Christmas Day)

Wednesday-Friday, December 28-30 -- Open 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday, January 2 -- Closed (in lieu of New Year's Day)

Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. in the St. Francis de Sales Chapel during Christmas Week on December 28, 29, and 30 only.

Archives

The Archdiocesan Archives will be closed from **December 26 to January 2**. Requests and inquiries received during this time will be responded to when the Archives reopens on January 3, 2017.

Father Albert Lacombe OMI

Anniversary Celebration at Lac Ste Anne



Father Albert Lacombe OMI (Feb.28,1827 - Dec. 12,1916) was a true pioneer in the province of Alberta and the local Church. He was an Oblate priest who first arrived at Lac Ste Anne in 1852. There he wintered with the Cree and Metis and learned the Cree language. Eventually that led to Cree translations of the New Testament, grammar, and dictionary. Father Lacombe is perhaps best known for establishing the mission of St. Albert, named after his patron saint, which later evolved into the Diocese of St. Albert and then the Archdiocese of Edmonton..

All are invited to join the parishioners of Lac Ste Anne in honouring the memory of this great man on the 100th anniversary of his death. On

Sunday, December 11, we will begin with Mass at 11 a.m. at Lac Ste Anne Parish, followed by video presentation, coffee and fellowship.

To learn more about the remarkable life and accomplishments of Father Lacombe:

[Click here to read a summary by Father Camille Piché, OMI](#)

[Click here to read The Builder of Peace, an excellent article in the St. Albert Gazette.](#)

Communications

Advent Penitentials and Christmas Mass Times



Are you looking for an Advent Penitential Service? Services at parishes across the Archdiocese are now posted on the archdiocesan website at <http://caedm.ca/Advent>.

We will also be posting Christmas Week Mass times, which is a very popular feature on the website, especially for visitors or those who are not regular attenders. But in this mission of online evangelization, we need your parish to submit your schedule as soon as possible. Kindly email communications@caedm.ca with the schedules for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. Many thanks!

Divine Worship

Prayers, Reflections & Activities for Advent

We are pleased to share some resources from Liturgy Training Publications that parishes may find helpful in celebrating each week in the season of Advent. They are presented in the form of a double-sided PDF handout which can be printed and distributed. (Please contact us if you need a Word version for copy & paste.)

Included this week is the following prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent:

Patience, Hope, Joy

Gracious, merciful, and patient God,
your generosity rewards our complaint.
You reap a fruitful harvest when we plant only hardness of heart.
Strengthen us in this season of hope,
grant patience in troubled times,
and lift our fearful hearts.
As the farmer waits for the fruitful harvest
and the desert anticipates abundant blossoms
may we, too, be blessed with patient hearts
as we approach the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

[Download the handout for Third Sunday of Advent](#) (PDF)

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Mass Readings for the 2016-17 Liturgical Year

Throughout the liturgical seasons, the Lord speaks to his people. The link below provides information on daily celebrations and readings at Mass throughout the next year, based on the Liturgical Calendar (Ordo) published by the National Liturgy Office of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB)

[Click here for full Liturgical Calendar for 2016-2017](#)

Every Life Matters

Love & Hope vs the Lethal Injection

(For those that missed this article because the link we sent last week didn't work)

How is that euthanasia, an act that would have been ethically unthinkable in Canada a decade ago, has morphed into a symbol of progressive, modern thinking? Is there any hope of stopping this kind of "progress" in our society? These are some of the questions internationally renowned bioethicist Margaret Somerville addressed during a seminar Saturday as part of a weekend conference on "Hope in Times of Ethical Dilemma." Dr. Somerville believes that "history will see the legalization of euthanasia as the most world-changing decision of the 21st century and that they will view it with enormous regret."



[Click here to read more](#)

Compassion on the Journey

The Catholic Bishops of Atlantic Canada have issued a [Pastoral Reflection on Medical Assistance in Dying](#). Like the Alberta Bishops, they stress the need for compassionate accompaniment. "In the pastoral care of those who are contemplating medical assistance in dying, we must remember that the purpose of pastoral care is to communicate the compassion of Christ, His healing love and His mercy. Furthermore, we must take into account the suffering person's emotional, family and faith context when responding to their specific requests for the reception of the Sacrament of Penance and

the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the reception of Holy Communion and the celebration of a Christian Funeral."

Think About It

In the Netherlands and Belgium, where euthanasia is legal, people have been killed without having asked for euthanasia (for example, cited in Canadian Medical Association Journal 2010:

www.cmaj.ca/content/182/9/895). In the Netherlands, doctors can actively end the life of infants born with a disability such as spina bifida.

Returning to Spirit

Reconciliation Workshops in 2017

Returning to Spirit workshops bring aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians together in a spirit of mutuality, respect, trust and equality, to create reconciliation, possibilities and responsibility for moving forward together. Are you interested in letting go of the past and moving into the future? Then join us in Returning to Spirit. Part I of Returning to Spirit is a 4-day intensive workshop that non-aboriginal and aboriginal participants take separately. The focus is on moving people forward through the principles of personal empowerment to go beyond healing, and to provide conditions for transformation in personal, family, community, and organizational life.

The workshops take place at Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert. The Part I Non-Aboriginal Workshop is set for **Friday-Monday, January 20-23**; the Part I: Aboriginal Workshop is set for **Friday-Monday, February 3-6**. Registration is now open -- for more information, [Download the Poster](#) or visit <http://caedm.ca/workshops>.

Together in Ministry

Information Workshop for members of Parish Pastoral Councils

All parish council members are invited to a Together in Ministry Information Workshop to be held at the Pastoral and Administration Offices, 8421 - 101 Avenue on **Saturday, January 21, 2017**, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This free workshop is designed to:

1. Review and renew our commitment to our shared mission
2. Present and Explain the **Structure & Leadership** of the local Church and the role of PPCs in the Archdiocese
3. Relate the **archdiocesan priorities and volunteer management** program to the mission of the universal Church

4. Provide an opportunity for PPC members to become familiar with the *Together in Ministry Manual* as a resource of information for development of gifts and talents in service of the parish communities.

This will be a great opportunity to network, share experiences and learn from members of Parish Pastoral Councils from across the Archdiocese.

To register, please contact Barbara Cartwright by phone 780-469-1010 ext. 2129 or by email bcartwright@caedm.ca. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Newman Theological College

Online Faith Formation



Registration is now open for the next cycle of classes in the the Certificate in Catholic Studies (CCS), offered by the Benedict XVI Institute for New Evangelization through Newman Theological College. Thirteen different courses will begin on **Monday, January 9**. All are offered online, so you can study from the comfort of home and work around your personal schedule. Each course runs five weeks and costs just \$85. This program is open to adults and youth of all backgrounds and education levels. Register online at www.newman.edu/CCS. For more information, contact Sandra Talarico at 780-392-2455 or sandra.talarico@newman.edu.

Undergraduate and Graduate course offerings for the winter semester, both online and on-campus, are now posted at www.newman.edu.

St. Joseph Seminary

Seminary Newsletter now Online

Have you ever wondered about life in the seminary? Well, you can get a glimpse of it through the eyes of the seminarians of St. Joseph Seminary. They publish their own newsletter, *Exiit Qui Seminatus*, twice a year, and now it is available online. In it, you will find personal reflections, interviews, photos and video.

View the Fall 2016 issue of Exiit Qui Seminatus

You can also sign up to receive the newsletter automatically via email -- [click here to add your name to the list!](#) Limited hardcopies are available by calling the seminary at 780-392-2445.

Parish and Community News

Adoremus at Basilica

You are invited to join us at St. Joseph Basilica for Adoremus, an evening of encounter with Christ through reflection on Holy scripture, the Sacrament of Penance, and time with the Holy Eucharist. This is an opportunity to deepen your relationship with the Lord, and meet with others desiring the same. Adoremus is scheduled for 7:30-9 p.m. on Saturdays: **December 17, January 14 and February 11**. Everyone is welcome.

CRS Breakfast

Catholic Renewal Services invites you to our next prayer breakfast on **Saturday, December 10**, with guest speaker Helen Smith. Join us at Chateau Louis Conference Centre, 11727 Kingsway, Edmonton. Breakfast

begins at 9 a.m. Ticket price for full buffet: \$18 adult, \$8 under 18, and free under 5. No charge for priests. Reserve your ticket by calling 587-989-0483 or email tell.us@ccredmonton.info.

Youth and Young Adults

Sacred Advent Retreat

We invite single women and men (18-40 years) for a quiet day on a journey of hope on **Saturday, December 17**, at Providence Centre, 3005 - 119 Street, Edmonton. The day will include the arts, videos, music and time for personal reflection, closing with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Lunch and snacks are provided; donations welcome. Please register by December 12 by email to vocdir@sistersofprovidence.ca or phone to 587-432-2088.

Advent and Christmas Events

Readings and Carols at the Basilica

St. Joseph's Basilica invites you to rediscover the heart, wonder, and mystery of Christmas in a joyful celebration presented by The Schola Cantorum under the direction of Roderick Bryce. Join us at 2:30 p.m. on **Sunday, December 18**, for "Lead Me to See Him," an afternoon of readings and carols for Christmas.

L'Arche Christmas Pageant

L'Arche Association of Edmonton will hold its annual Christmas Pageant on Monday, December 12, at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas d'Aquin Church, 8410 - 89 Street. This is a beautiful L'Arche Edmonton Christmas tradition as members of our community with developmental disabilities re-enact the nativity scene in full costume accompanied by traditional Christmas carol singing. There is no charge for this event, but we invite guests to bring a non-perishable food item for the Edmonton Food Bank. Following the pageant, join us for refreshments and the opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts at the popular Day Program Craft Sale! For more information, phone Maria at 780-465-0618, ext. 206.

Hot Soup and Jewelry

Are you on or near the University of Alberta Campus? Are you looking for some nice Christmas gifts? Drop in at the St. Joseph's College Women's Residence between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Monday, December 12, and browse through the beautiful Fifth Avenue Jewelry -- all proceeds go to A Safe Place women's shelter, as part of the 2016 No Room in the Inn campaign. Free hot soup and buns!

Nativity Collection Display

Blessed Sacrament Parish in Wainwright invites you to visit our 8th annual Nativity Collection Display, featuring over 330 nativity scenes. Display will be open at the Parish Hall, 906 - 6 Avenue, on Friday, December 16, at 1-5 p.m.; Saturday, December 17, at 1-7 p.m.; and Sunday, December 18, at 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Free admission, everyone welcome. Donations of cash or non-perishable food accepted for the Wainwright Food Bank. If you have a nativity set you would like us to display, or for more information, contact Linda 780-842-3277.

Novena Evening Masses

The Simbang Committee at St. Theresa Parish, 7508 - 29 Avenue, Edmonton, invites you to join us for 9 Novena evening masses from December 15 through 23. All masses begin at 7:30 p.m., except on Sunday, December 18, when we begin at 6 p.m. Each evening features a different choir.

Dawn Masses before Christmas

The Twin Parishes of St. Agnes-St. Anthony invite you to join us for nine days of successive masses from December 16 to 24 at 6 a.m. in the morning in preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus. Mass will be celebrated at St. Agnes Church, 10826 - 62 Avenue, Edmonton, on December 16,17,18, and at St. Anthony Church, 10661 - 82 Avenue, on December 19-24. Rosary is at 5:30 a.m., and a potluck breakfast follows after Mass. For more information, please call the Twin Parishes office at 780-432-0611.