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The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton

# Quid Novum

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Dear [Contact.First Name]

Well, we're down to the last stretch before Christmas -- are you ready? I'm not. Maybe we both need to take a little time each day in the coming week for reflection and prayer -- certainly beats battling the cold and the crowds at the mall!

Wishing you a peaceful week,

Lorraine

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## Office of the Archbishop

Our Lady offers hope, even in bleak winter of the soul

### Human Resources

The Communications Office is looking for an energetic and creative journalist who is passionate about the Catholic faith and who will help us share the great stories of Catholic life in Edmonton and central Alberta. For all the details of this and other full postings, visit <http://caedm.ca/careers>.

### Pilgrimages

**Fatima April 25-May 6**  
Join Father Arlan Parenteau on an unforgettable



This year's Mass on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe was a beautiful witness to unity amidst diversity in culture, language, and spirituality. It featured joyful participation from our First Nations, Spanish-speaking and Filipino communities, including the traditional drummers from Our Lady of

pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes and other holy sites in Europe in 2017. Price of \$4,285 includes return airfare from Edmonton, transportation & taxes, meals, and tours. For more information contact Jackie Abello at 780-229-4171.

[Download the flyer](#)

the Lake Parish, pictured above.

In his homily, Archbishop Smith reflected on the current cold weather as a metaphor for something deeper.

"Just as winter envelops the land at those points where the earth is farthest from the sun, so does coldness of heart spread in those whose lives are at greatest distance from the Son," he said.

"...Yet hope can arise, even in the bleak winter of the soul. This is the message of Guadalupe. Recall the miraculous roses given as a sign to confirm the truth of Our Lady's visitation to Juan Diego. To the wonder of all, they bloomed at a time of severe frost. Mary knows the hearts of her children, she sees our neediness. In her maternal love, she shows us how hope can blossom even when we would judge it impossible ..."

[Read more](#)

## A Wondrous Gift / Un cadeau merveilleux: Archbishop's Message for Christmas

Archbishop Smith has issued a message for Christmas 2016, which we encourage you to share with your family parish, school, or community. Watch next week for the video!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I have always found Christmas to be a beautiful time of year. As Christians, we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. In him, Mary's child, God has become one of us, one with us. When he came into the world, Jesus was born into a family. He has much to teach us about the dignity, the beauty and even the fragility of family life.

[Download a printable version](#) (PDF)

[Message de Noël](#) (PDF en français)

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## 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.

### ***Before the Meal***

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, we thank you for your Word. You confirmed to John the Baptist that you are, indeed, the long-awaited Messiah! (Matthew 2:1-11)

**All:** Help us, Jesus, to know every day the joy of your saving help.

**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. Though your Apostle James you teach us to wait patient for your coming. (James 5:7-10)

**All:** Grant us, Jesus, we pray, the gift of patience and the grace to await with trust your answer to our every need.

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

## **Cemeteries**

### Grief at Christmas Time



Christmas can be a particularly difficult time for anyone who has lost a loved one over the past year. Deacon Paul Croteau and the staff at Edmonton Catholic Cemeteries are skilled in serving those who grieve, and Christmas Day is one of their busiest times at Holy Cross Cemetery. [In this video by Global TV](#), they speak about how our Catholic cemeteries offer comfort and hope at this time of year.

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## **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.

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## Communications

### Advent Penitential and Christmas Mass Times



Are you looking for an Advent Penitential Service or Mass times during Christmas Week? Services at parishes across the Archdiocese are now posted on the archdiocesan website at

<http://caedm.ca/Advent> and <http://caedm.ca/Christmas>.

If your parish is not represented on these pages, there is still time to join our mission of online evangelization -- just email [communications@caedm.ca](mailto:communications@caedm.ca) with the schedules for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day.

Many thanks!

### Quid Novum takes a break

Please note that the next issue of Quid Novum, dated December 20, will be the last one before our Christmas break. We will return to your email inbox on **January 4, 2017**.

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## Development and Peace

### Thank you from Haiti!



In Sunday's Gospel, St. Joseph is having a moment of doubt. Yet, he opens himself up to God's plan in true obedience. Through Jesus Christ, God who is with us, we too are able to open ourselves up to God. One way in which we do this is through service to our brothers and sisters around the world. Thank you for your service and generosity to our brothers and sisters in Haiti, who survived the devastation of Hurricane Matthew. To date, the Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Edmonton has raised over \$140,000.00 for this emergency. Through Development and Peace, you have provided food to 13,500 of the most vulnerable people. Forty per cent of those requiring aid are children. For more information contact [dpwest@devp.org](mailto:dpwest@devp.org) or 1-844-480-DEVP.

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## 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent:

#### Fill Our Darkness with Your Light

Ever-living God, source of all life and all goodness,  
you who dwell within all creation,  
who draw us closer:  
fill the darkness of lives with the light of your presence.  
As we await your coming,  
inspire us in our waking and our sleeping,  
and quiet our anxious minds  
so that we will be ready for you, God-with-us.  
May we realize your promise fulfilled in our hearts,  
our homes, and our lives.  
We ask this through 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 the Fourth Sunday of Advent](#)

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## Life and Family

### Faith and Fun Night with the Oil Kings

Are you looking for some last-minute Christmas gift ideas? Why not take the family to an Edmonton Oil Kings game in the beautiful new Rogers Place? The Archdiocese is sponsoring a game between the Oil Kings and archrival Regina Pats on **Friday, February 10**, featuring a special price of \$18 a ticket (regular up to \$29). In addition, the first 400 purchased tickets will be rewarded with a voucher to an exclusive pre-game event in the North Mezzanine Club. Come out and watch Archbishop Smith drop the puck and join a crowd of Catholics for a great night of hockey and entertainment!

**To purchase your tickets at the special price, visit <http://bit.ly/2hc70rE>,** click "Log in" on upper right-hand side of the screen and create your account. Select the **February 10th game** and enter the Promo Code **CAEDM**, then follow the prompts to add tickets to your cart and make payment. NOTE: the link does **not** work well with Internet Explorer. If you have trouble online, you can place your order by phoning 780-414-4625 and following the prompt to go to Edmonton Oil Kings tickets sales. Remember to mention the promo code **CAEDM** to get the discount price for the **February 10th game**.

Questions? Contact Steve Defer in the Office of Life and Family at 780-460-1010 ext. 2159.

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## Every Life Matters

### Think About It

Used to describe assisted suicide and euthanasia, euphemisms such as “medical aid in dying” or “mercy killing” or “dying with dignity” imply that people who die of natural causes lack dignity, or suggest that euthanasia and assisted suicide are justified so long as they are done “compassionately” or with the aid of a medical professional.

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## Together We Serve

### A last-minute gift?



*Together We Serve* is the archdiocesan charitable appeal that allows us to make a gift that will benefit many Catholic causes here at home, in Canada, and abroad. The year 2016 has been tough for many, but even so, we had reached 84 per cent of our overall goal by November 30. If you are looking to make a few last charitable gifts before year-end,

why not consider one to *Together We Serve*? Donate through the parish or directly online at <http://caedm.ca/WeServe>. Thank you for your generous support!

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## 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:

- Review and renew our commitment to our shared mission
- Present and Explain the Structure & Leadership of the local Church and the role of PPCs in the Archdiocese
- Relate the archdiocesan priorities and volunteer management program to the mission of the universal Church
- 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 to [bcartwright@caedm.ca](mailto:bcartwright@caedm.ca). We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

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## 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](http://www.newman.edu/CCS). For more information, contact Sandra Talarico at 780-392-2455 or [sandra.talarico@newman.edu](mailto: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](http://www.newman.edu)

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## Advent & Christmas Events

### Christmas Novenas

**Annunciation Church**, Edmonton, is having a Christmas Novena or Simbang Gabi from **December 15 to 23** at 7 p.m. weekdays, Saturday at 5 p.m., and Sunday with a regular mass schedule. Hosted by Couples for Christ.

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.

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.

### Readings and Carols at the Basilica

St. Joseph 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.

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## 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.

## AlAnon & AlaTeen

Do you worry about how much a friend or family member drinks? Have you been hurt or embarrassed by a drinker's behaviour? Are holidays and gatherings spoiled because of drinking? Al-Anon Family Groups can offer strength and hope for friends and families of problem drinkers. For more information about meetings in your area, visit <http://www.al-anon.ab.ca>. [Click here to download a list of meetings in Edmonton and area](#)

## House of Ephesus

Due to a schedule adjustment, Corpus Christi Parish's next House of Ephesus recollection will be this coming **Saturday, December 17**. Our theme is "Jesus Living In Mary;" that is, we will reflect on the life of the Incarnate Word prior to His Nativity and what this means for us. All are welcome to join us, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Please bring your own lunches-- coffee and tea will be provided.)

## Catechist Formation

St. Albert Parish (7 St. Vital Avenue, St. Albert) is hosting a catechist formation using the Echoes program. This parish-based training is designed to equip Catholics to pass on the faith as catechists. This is a great formation opportunity for those who already serve as catechists and need a refresher, and those who wish to begin serving in this important ministry. The class will take place in the parish hall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, January 14**. The \$30 registration fee covers the cost of the workbook and lunch. Part 2 of the Echoes program will take place on **January 28**. Please contact [Mark.Guevarra@caedm.ca](mailto:Mark.Guevarra@caedm.ca) if you wish to register.

## Youth & Family Ski Trip & Retreat

St. Anthony's Parish in Drayton Valley invites you to join us on the **February 4-5 weekend** for a youth and family ski trip to Marmot Basin and Way of Holiness Retreat Centre! A bus will be departing from Drayton Valley, but if you are joining us from away and wanting to travel on the bus, accommodations Friday night can be provided. Cost includes transportation from Drayton Valley, Saturday supper and Sunday breakfast, and accommodations. \$190 including ski or snowboard rental and lift ticket, \$165 with just the lift ticket, \$115 for just the retreat. For more information or to register, please contact Ashley Rhyno, Youth Coordinator, at 780-542-5254 or email [Ashley.Rhyno@caedm.ca](mailto:Ashley.Rhyno@caedm.ca)

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