

December 17, 2023



Third Sunday of Advent



ST. AMBROSE PARISH
COALDALE, AB

St. Catherine's Parish
Picture Butte, AB



Pastor: Rev. Ian Gagné

Deacon, St. Catherine's (on loan) **Rev. Mr. Isaac Driedger** (isaacdriedger62@gmail.com)

Deacon, St. Ambrose (temporary assignment) **Rev. Mr. Peter Lilienthal**

Central Office at St. Ambrose

1513-23 Ave Coaldale T1M 1E2
Phone : 403-345-3400 Fax: 403-345-6962
Office Hours: 8:30 - 4:00 Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
Email: office@stambroseparish.ca
Website: stambroseparish.ca



St. Catherine's Office

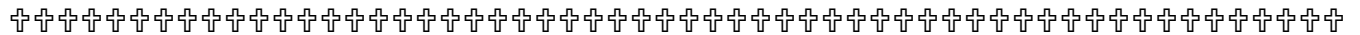
762 Crescent Ave Picture Butte
Phone: 403-345-3400 Fax: 403-345-6962
Office Hours: 9:00 – noon Wednesday
Email: office@stambroseparish.ca
Website: stcatherineparish.ca

Parish Registration

If you are new to one of our parishes: A warm WELCOME is extended to new parishioners. Please introduce yourselves to Fr. Ian after Mass, fill out a registration form located in the church entrance, and place in the collection basket.

Receiving the Sacraments in our parishes: Please contact the parish office regarding Sacramental Preparation for all Sacraments—Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation and Marriage. Couples contemplating marriage should contact a priest at least six (6) months prior to the date chosen. A marriage preparation course is required.

Bulletin Announcements: Need to be submitted by 3:00 pm each Wednesday of the week the bulletin is published.



OUR PRAYERS

MASS INTENTIONS: Week of December 10. Mass Intentions for December 2023 posted in foyers of churches.

Tuesday, Dec. 19	SA 7:00 pm	Swanson family Int.	
Wednesday, Dec. 20	SC 9:00 am	Johanus Vogel RIP	
Thursday Dec. 21 (SJS School Mass)	SA 8:45 am	Theo & Tonni Vanden Berg Int.	
Friday			
Sunday, Dec. 19	SA 9:00 am	For the parishioners	
Sunday, Dec. 19	SC 11:00 am	For the parishioners	
Sunday, Dec. 19	SA 4:00 pm	For the parishioners	

Please pray for the sick of our parishes – Margaret Bergen Henengouwen, Fr. Andrew Pion, Darlene Beler, Megan Van Diemen, Katie Lindsay, Robert Briggs, Carol Michanuik, Robert Murray, Stan Rach, Marilyn Rudelich, David Beler, Diann Knight, Deirdre Doyle, Gracie Jeppson, Pat Theroux, Fausto Roma Vela, Julius Urban, Joanne Kubic.

And for the Repose of the Souls of all the deceased.



****Please note the following schedule changes taking place after Christmas:**

Fr. Ian will be away Dec. 26—29: St Ambrose—NO Confessions or Mass Dec. 26, NO Mass Dec. 28
St. Catherine's—NO Mass Dec. 27, NO Confessions on Dec. 28
Fr. Ian will be back for Adoration and Confession on Friday evening, Dec. 29.

The parish office will be closed: Monday Dec. 25, Tuesday Dec. 26 and Monday Jan. 1.

OUR SUPPORT FOR OTHERS

Support For Our Parishes

Weekly Donations to Our Parishes from Nov. 19 , 2023

St. Ambrose—\$2,532.80 Hall \$10 TIA \$60 Catholic Ed. \$10 Annual Parishes Collection \$550

St. Catherine's—\$743.50 TIA \$80 O&M \$446 Annual Parishes Collection \$700 Rectory Renovation \$5000

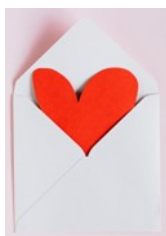
We would like to acknowledge and thank our Sugar Beet Growers who, each year, donate their land and time to grow sugar beets for St. Catherine's Parish to assist with the parish expenses. This year, our growers have provided three payments to the parish: \$5,384.01, \$2,151.08 and \$679.83, for a total of \$8,214.92! Their efforts are much appreciated!



Our 2023 TIA goals:	Donated to 10.12.2023:	Bal. owed:
St. Ambrose - \$10,531	\$10,575.15	\$ 0 !
St. Catherine's - \$10,703	\$10,735.00	\$ 0 !

Let us love.
not in word or speech,
but in truth and action.

Congratulations, St. Ambrose & St. Catherine's on both meeting your TIA goals!! Way to go! You'll help a lot of people with your generosity!



ANNUAL PARISHES COLLECTION CAMPAIGN (formerly the Fall Collection) started the First Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3 This fund-raising campaign is primarily to help our parishes with the day-to-day costs of running the parish. Did you know, for instance, that the cost of the paper that is used for the bulletin has risen by 64% in the past 3 years, as well as substantial increases in our insurances, energy costs—much like your own homes. Your generosity during this campaign will help our parishes for the next year. This money also goes toward helping the parishes in case of emergency repairs, etc.

This year, in an effort to help cut some costs, the Annual Fund-raising letters will be placed in the lobbies of the churches and listed alphabetically. Please look for your family's letter and please contribute what you can to your parish. Your generosity is much appreciated!



Christmas Season Mass Times



Sunday Dec. 24—4th Sunday of Advent: St. Ambrose 9:00 am St. Catherine's 11:00 am NO 4:00 pm MASS

Sunday Dec. 24—Christmas Eve: St. Catherine's 8:00 pm St. Ambrose 11:00 pm

Monday Dec. 25 –Christmas Day: St. Ambrose 9:00 am St. Catherine's 11:00 am

Sunday Dec. 31-Feast of Holy Family: St. Ambrose 9:00 am St. Catherine's 11:00 am St. Ambrose 4:00pm

Monday Jan 1-Mary, Mother of God (Obligation): St. Ambrose 9:00 am St. Catherine's 11:00 am NO 4:00pm

Sunday Jan. 7—Epiphany of the Lord: Regular Sunday schedule of Masses

Gaudete "Rejoice" Sunday



On the third Sunday of Advent — also known as "Gaudete Sunday" or "Rejoice Sunday" — the rose-pink candle is lit and the priest's vestments are the same rose hue. This Sunday begins a more joyous phase, as our waiting for the newborn Savior is nearly over.

OUR EVENTS



The Pope's Prayer Intention for December 2023: For people with disabilities — Let us pray that people with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions offer inclusion programs that enhance their active participation.”

The Pope video can be found here: <https://thepopevideo.org/>



You also might like to consider a retreat this Advent. The retreat centers in our Diocese have many opportunities for prayer and renewal! Here are the links to their websites:

The Martha Center, Lethbridge
<https://www.martharetreatcentre.ca/>

FCJ Centre, Calgary | fcjcentre.ca

Mount St. Francis Retreat Center, Cochrane
<https://mountstfrancis.ca/>



ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Here are the dates for the upcoming **Advent Penitential Services** in our area:

Wed. Dec. 20: St. Joseph's, Vauxhall at 7 pm
Thurs. Dec. 21: St. Catherine's, Picture Butte at 7 pm



“Welcome Home: How to make our parishes more inviting” On Thursday, Dec. 14, the Diocese hosted a webinar on the subject of how to make our parishes more inviting as part of our Pastoral Renewal. 250 participants joined the online session, “Welcome Home: How to make our parishes more inviting”. The people who attended found the webinar informative and powerful! If you missed it, or would like a recap, you can view the session here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2u8AydPMHco>

If you would like to read the summary notes from this webinar, they can be found here: <https://www.catholicyc.ca/blog/welcome-home>

Christmas Note Cards - The Diocese has provided Christmas note cards for parishioners to use in conveying care to others this Advent and Christmas. Here are some ideas on how to use them: parishioners can convey God's love and care to colleagues at work by leaving these cards at their desks, either signed or anonymously, students, parents, guardians, and teachers can share these cards with others in their schools, these cards can be inserted into Christmas cards and gift boxes, they could be shared with a stranger who seems down or burdened. Look for these cards in the lobby. Please share the limited supply!



OUR SCRIPTURE REFLECTION THIS WEEK



Using symbolic language, John the Evangelist describes who John the Baptist is and what his mission will be. In every gospel John the Baptist plays an important part but always he is subordinate to Christ. John the Baptist is the one to prepare the way of the Lord, but he is not the Lord. Undoubtedly there were some at that time who thought John the Baptist was the messiah. But John the Baptist knew who he was.

John the Baptist is very certain of his own identity. Do we know who we are?

How did John the Baptist prepare the way for Jesus?

How is John the Baptist a model for us?

We can never take the light for granted. It needs to be tended carefully. In what ways can we be joyful witnesses to the light during this Advent season?

OUR LARGER COMMUNITY



Did you see the 2023 Christmas stamp from Canada Post? This Vancouver artist Adrian Horvath's latest work holds special importance for him as a Christian. His design for the 2023 Christmas stamp, Madonna and Child, portrays the new-born Jesus cradled in Mary's arm as she gently gazes down with love.

"I have had the honour of doing a few stamps for Canada Post in the past, Horvath said in an email to The B.C. Catholic. "This one was definitely a special one for me."

Horvath described the concept of Mary that he was trying to convey in the Christmas stamp. "I see Mary as someone who was born into a selfless calling and was entrusted with a responsibility beyond herself. She had the faith to carry out what God had asked of her, and I see that sacrificial love in mothers like mine and my wife – so this was a special stamp for me."
Taken from <https://bccatholic.ca/>



Just a reminder: If you are planning an event, meeting or practice in St. Ambrose or St. Catherine's church, Lobby, SA Olde Rectory, or SC Hall, please book with the office. Things are getting busier and not booking a space could mean you don't have one when you arrive. Call 403-345-3400 to book for weekdays and weekends. Thanks!

Many thanks to these bulletin advertisers who, by their participation, help to offset the cost of printing the bulletin. Please show our thanks by supporting them!

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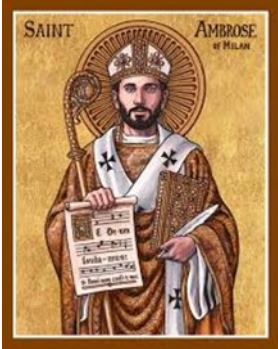
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Fax: 403-732-4099

OUR PARISHES

St. Ambrose, Pray for us.
Feast Day: December 7



St. Ambrose Parish

- Sunday Mass: 9:00 am and 4:00 pm**
- Weekday Masses:** Tuesday 7:00 pm, Thursday 8:45 am
- Adoration:** Fridays 7:00—8:00 pm
- Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Tuesdays 6:00—6:45 pm
Fridays 7:00—8:00 pm
- Rosary:** Mondays at 10:00 am with CWL

Sacrament Prep. Inquiries—First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation questions?
Please contact our Sacramental Prep Coordinator, Sylvia, at 403-394-6234.

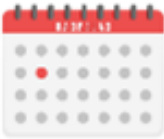
St. Ambrose Knights of Columbus meets the 1st Wed. each month at 7 pm (except July/Aug.)

St. Ambrose CWL meets the 2nd Wed. each month at 7 pm (except July/Aug.).



This week in our parish Dec. 17—Dec 24

- Sunday, Dec. 17 CWL Coffee after Mass
- Wednesday, Dec. music practice 9:15 am
- Thursday, Dec. 21 music practice 7:00 pm



Pastoral Care Ministry: Please phone the team listed below on Saturday Dec. 23 if you wish to receive Holy Communion after the 9 am Sunday Mass on Dec. 24, and please remember to have another person present with you when the Pastoral Care Ministers arrive.

Dec. 24 Team: Bonnie 403-345-4596 and Diann 403-345-4945

The Advent Mission at St. Ambrose was a wonderful 3 evenings of prayer and visiting in our community. Many thanks to the Seeds of the Word group who shared not only with the parishes, but also spent time in the schools, answering the many questions the students had about vocations. It was good to have the Seeds of the Word group here! Please keep them in your prayers.



Poinsettia donations will be gratefully accepted AFTER DEC. 17. Please bring to church during office hours or on Sundays at Mass times.

Christmas decorating happens Sat. Dec. 23 10:30 am. We will be doing trees and greenery to go up on Dec. 24 after the 9 am Mass. Volunteers are needed for both days please! Questions? Call or text Shelley 403-331-7618.

Future Hall—the Fund Raising Committee is looking for Volunteers and support for the new hall. Contact Blaise MacNeil at 587-320-9958 or blaisemn@hotmail.com

**** Note date change—Catechism in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz** is a powerful way to learn about our faith. Using You Tube and the Hallow app, we will meet each Wed. morning at 10 am, starting **Jan. 10, 2024**. You will need an up-to-date copy of the Catechism and access to You Tube or Hallow. Please contact Shelley with any questions, or to confirm



St. Catherine, Pray for us.
Feast Day: November 25

OUR PARISHES

St. Catherine's Parish

Sunday Mass: 11:00 am

Weekday Mass:

Wednesday/ Miércoles 9:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

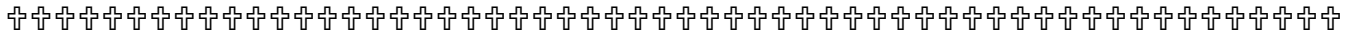
Thursday/Jueves 6:00—7:30 pm

Sacrament Prep. Inquiries—First Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation questions?
Please contact our Sacramental Prep Coordinator, Susan, at 403-732-4685 or 403-315-3217.

Preparación sacramental. Consultas: ¿Preguntas sobre Primera Reconciliación, Primera
Comunión y Confirmación? Comuníquese con nuestra coordinadora de preparación
sacramental, Susan, al 403-732-4685 o al 403-315-3217.

Ministries Schedule

DATE	EMHC	COMMENTATOR/ LECTOR	ALTAR SERVERS	OFFERTORY FAMILY	COFFEE MINISTRY
Dec. 24 11 am	Susan	Tanya		Not yet.	?
Dec. 24 8 pm	Lew	?			?
Dec. 25 11 am	Elaine	?		Not yet.	?
Dec. 31 11 am	Liz	?			?



St. Catherine's CWL meets the 3rd Wed.
of the month at 7 pm (except July & Aug.)



- ◆ **First Reconciliation will be celebrated at the parish Reconciliation Service on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7:00 pm.**
- ◆ **Please remember to bring Baptism certificates and book fees if you have not done that.**

La Primera Reconciliación se celebrará en el Servicio de Reconciliación parroquial el jueves 21 de diciembre a las 7:00 pm.

- ◆ **Recuerde traer certificados de bautismo y tarifas de libros si no lo ha hecho.**


CWL News: Our membership drive is starting. The fees are \$35.

The Tree of Hope is set up in the church for Advent. Please take a star or two and bring the gift noted back to put under the tree before Dec. 13. The gifts will go into the Food Bank hampers being made up on Dec. 15 & 16. Can you help make Christmas brighter for someone who is struggling?

El Árbol de la Esperanza se coloca en la iglesia para el Adviento. Por favor tome una estrella o dos y traiga el regalo anotado para colocarlo debajo del árbol antes del 13 de diciembre. Los regalos irán a las cestas del Banco de Alimentos que se prepararán el 15 y 16 de diciembre. ¿Puede ayudar a que la Navidad sea más bri-



A HUGE THANK YOU to the volunteers who cleaned the carpet in the hall!!! It looks amazing! Many thanks to Lawrence Vogel who donated the use of the carpet cleaner. Let's do our best to keep the carpet clean and looking great!

 If you would like to donate to the purchase of poinsettias for the church for Christmas, please call Elizabeth Stroeve by Dec. 17 at 403-382-7320.