

December 3, 2023

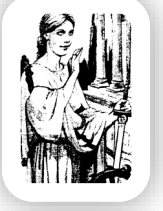
First Sunday of Advent



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

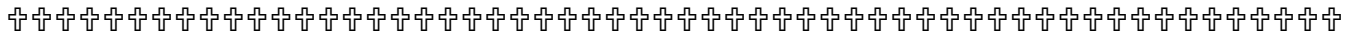
762 Crescent Ave Picture Butte
Phone: 403-345-3400 Fax: 403-345-6962
Office Hours: 9:00 – noon Wednesday
Email: office@stambroseparish.ca
Website: stcatherineparish.ca

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

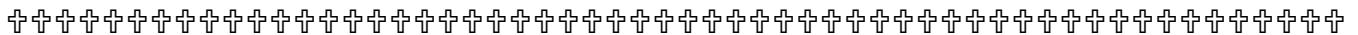
MASS INTENTIONS: Week of December 3. Mass Intentions for December 2023 posted in foyers of churches.

Tuesday, Dec. 5	SA 7:00 pm	All Souls RIP
Wednesday, Dec. 6	SC 9:00 am	Elizabeth Stroeve Int.
Thursday Dec. 7	SA 8:45 am	John Vogel RIP
Friday Dec. 8 Sunny South Lodge	10 am	Fernand Nadeau RIP
Sunday, Oct. 29	SA 9:00 am	For the parishioners
Sunday, Oct. 29	SC 11:00 am	For the parishioners
Sunday, Oct. 29	SA 4:00 pm	For the parishioners



Please pray for the sick of our parishes – Fr. Andrew Pion, Megan Van Diemen, Darlene Beler, Katie Lindsay, Robert Briggs, Carol Michanuk, Robert Murray, Fr. Bob Dielissen, 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.
One Year Anniversary of Death—December: Bryan Ellefson, Sini Eringfeld.



ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

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

- Wed. Dec. 6: St. Augustine's, Taber at 7 pm
- Wed. Dec. 20: St. Joseph's, Vauxhall at 7 pm
- Thurs. Dec. 7: St. Ambrose at 7 pm**
- Thurs. Dec. 21: St. Catherine's, Picture Butte at 7 pm**
- Wed. Dec. 13: St. Peter's, Milk River at 7 pm
- Thurs. Dec. 14: St. Martha's, Lethbridge at 7 pm
- Sat. Dec. 16: All Saints (Assumption), Lethbridge at 10 am—noon

OUR SUPPORT FOR OTHERS

Support For Our Parishes

Weekly Donations to Our Parishes from Nov. 19, 2023

St. Ambrose—\$2,489 TIA \$70 Evangelization \$20
 Catholic Ed. \$20 Annual Parish F.R. \$50
 Wreaths/Candles \$50
 1st (Hall Fund) Turkey Supper \$7,669.85

St. Catherine's—\$901 TIA \$45 O&M \$250



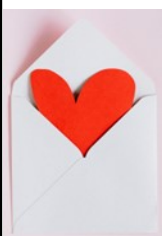
Let us love.
not in word or speech,
but in truth and action.

Our 2023 TIA goals:	Donated to 26.11.2023:	Bal. owed:
St. Ambrose - \$10,531	\$10,210.15	\$320.85
St. Catherine's - \$10,703	\$10,384.00	\$319.00

2023 TIA Campaign ends soon. Congratulations, St. Ambrose & St. Catherine's on both being so close to meeting your goals!! Just a little bit more to go!

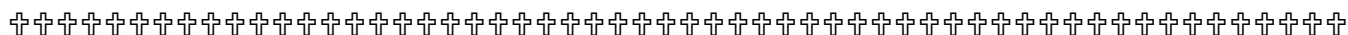


ANNUAL PARISHES FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN (formerly the Fall Collection) will be starting the First Sunday of

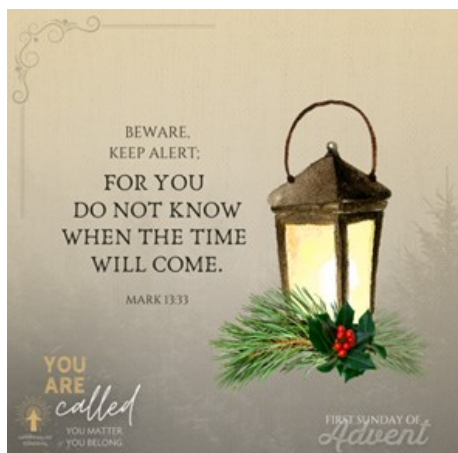


Advent, Dec. 3 This fund-raising campaign is primarily to help our parishes with the day-to-day costs of running the parish. Did you know, for instance, that the cost of the paper that is used for the bulletin has risen by 64% in the past 3 years, as well as substantial increases in our insurances, energy 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 starting on the First Sunday of Advent and please contribute what you can to your parish. Your generosity is much appreciated!



OUR SCRIPTURE REFLECTION THIS WEEK



During Advent, we remember the historical waiting for Christ's first coming in the incarnation and look forward in anticipation to his second coming at the end of time (the parousia). In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that in this in-between time of waiting we are to remain as vigilant as gatekeepers. Is it possible that the invitation to such vigilant readiness could imply that Jesus may come to us in surprising/unexpected ways?

- What does it mean to you that Christ will come again? How will this affect the way you live and your preparation for Christmas?**
- How does the Gospel invite you to "wait" for Christ's return?**
- Jesus gives the disciples the task of gatekeepers. What is the task he gives to you as you "wait" for his return?**
- What are some of the ways Jesus comes/appears to us in daily life right now? What could we do during this Advent season to become more alert in recognizing his presence with us?**

(Reflection: Diocese of Saskatoon)

Today, Dec. 3, begins the 4-week period leading up to Christmas known as **Advent**, or 'coming'. Christ is preparing to come to us this Christmas in a way that suits who we are—and how we are—*this* year. On the Sundays in Advent (from the gospels in this year's readings), our Lord speaks to us with words meant to sustain us for the coming week. We are invited to get to know the people in the Gospels of Advent, and reflect on their situations, and our own, and our relationship with the Lord.

OUR EVENTS



Advent Mission at St. Ambrose Dec. 10, 11, and 12. All are welcome! 3 members of the Seeds of the Word community will join us to speak on our Diocesan Renewal theme “You are Called. You Matter. You Belong”

Sunday, Dec. 10, 7—8 pm: presentation by Seeds of the Word.

Monday, Dec. 11: Mass at 7 pm then presentation by Seeds of the Word. Coffee to follow.

Tuesday, Dec. 12: Mass at 7 pm then presentation by Seeds of the Word. Coffee to follow.

There is no cost for the Mission—a ‘love offering’ will be taken each night.

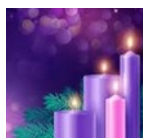
****Volunteers will be needed during the time of the Mission** to help with meals for the visitors, Hospitality for the 3 evenings of the Mission, people to provide coffee and snacks after the talks, etc. If you can help, please call Ellen Wagner at 403-345-2610 or Dianne Clarke at 403-345-4249. Your prayers are also requested during the Mission.



◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
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/>

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Thank you! The St. Ambrose Hall Committee and Knights of Columbus wish to extend a BIG THANK YOU to all who made the Turkey Supper a success: those who donated supplies and their time, and to those who attended. The Hall Committee would also like to thank the Knights of Columbus for their help organizing things. A total of \$7,669.85 was raised to go towards our new hall!



◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Advent Twilight Retreat at the Martha Retreat Center—Monday, Dec. 4 from 4:45—9:00 pm, with Dr. Mark Nixon and Ellen Wagner. Be Still and Know That I Am God—Psalm 46:10 is the theme for the evening. Cost is \$67.00 and includes supper. Register at martharetreatcenter.ca or call 403-328-3422 to register or for more details.



◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Can you help make Food Bank hampers? North Country Food Bank is in need of volunteers to help make and deliver hampers starting at 9 am on Sat. Dec. 16 at St. Catherine’s Hall. All donations of time or money are welcome and appreciated! Contact Arnie Bergen Henengouwen at 403-308-9140 for more information.

¿Puedes ayudar a hacer cestas para el Banco de Alimentos? North Country Food Bank necesita voluntarios para ayudar a hacer y entregar cestas a partir de las 9 am del sábado. 16 de diciembre en St. Catherine’s Hall. Todas las donaciones de tiempo o dinero son ¡Bienvenido y apreciado! Comuníquese con Arnie Bergen Henengouwen al 403-308-9140 para obtener más información.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
The Canadian Catholic Conference of Bishops provides a monthly printable Liturgical calendar featuring the monthly calendar, Solemnities, Feasts and Memorials in Canada, and Mass readings. You can print it from their website at: <https://www.cccb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-2024.pdf>

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆
Advent in the Diocese of Calgary—there are many events happening in our Diocese related to Advent: Missions, retreats, concerts, crafting, markets and dinners. If you would like to see what is happening, go to <https://www.catholicyc.ca/advent.html#events>

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/>

OUR LARGER COMMUNITY

Christmas Pot Luck with the Assumption Charismatic Prayer Group and the People of Praise on Wed. Dec. 6 at 5:30 pm. Location not stated. Bring your favorite Christmas dish, your family and friends. Praise & worship to follow.





KEYS, KEYS, KEYS! – Do you have one or more keys belonging to St. Ambrose or St. Catherine’s church or hall? **WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR THEM BACK (unless you don’t need them), just that we ensure they are registered with the office as per the policies of the Diocese of Calgary!** If you have keys, and have not spoken with Roisin about them, please email at office@stambroseparish.ca OR phone the office at 403-345-3400 so we can make sure our records are up to date! Your cooperation is much appreciated in helping to keep our churches safe and secure, and in **helping us avoid the expense of having to change all the locks!** If you know someone who has not seen this, please let them know.



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!

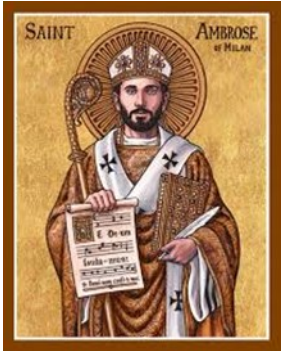
Many thanks to these bulletin advertisers who, by their participation, help to offset the cost of printing the bulletin. Please show our thanks by supporting them!

 <p style="text-align: center;">Picture Butte</p> <p>Store hours: Monday - Friday 9 am - 8 pm Saturday 9 am - 6 pm 403-732-4144</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EDEN'S Funeral Home & Cremation Services Coaldale</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"We offer complete funeral and cremation services. Our family serving your family."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Your Local Funeral Service Provider Honouring Life's Memories.....</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">403-345-0100 1711-20th Street, Coaldale AB</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HERMAN'S CARPETS FLOORS AND MORE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carpet, Lino, Ceramic Tile, Blinds, Pre-finished Hardwood Residential & Commercial <i>Free Estimates</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1718 20th Ave, Coaldale, AB Bus: 403-345-3421 Fax: 403-345-6104</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PHARMASAVE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1910 20th Avenue</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ron Cook, Owner/Operator Box 1315 Coaldale AB T1M 1N1 Phone: (403) 345-3277</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PERLICH BROS <small>AUCTION MARKET LTD.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contact us at 403-329-3101</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Visit our website perlich.auction</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Coaldale Food Market</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1903 20th Ave, Coaldale, AB 403-345-4757 coaldalefood@gmail.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>St. Ambrose Parish</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Catholic Women's League Mary-Ann Vervoort, President 403-345-5457</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Catholic... and living it!"</i></p> 	

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Honoured to Serve"</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">CORNERSTONE FUNERAL HOME Ltd. 403-381-7777 (24/7)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECEPTION • CHAPEL • CREMATORIUM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.cornerstonefuneralhome.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> @CornerstoneFH</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PICTURE BUTTE PHARMACY PHARMASAVE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">309 Jamieson Avenue PO Box 340 Picture Butte AB T0K 1V0 Phone: 403-732-5511 Fax: 403-732-4099</p>
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OUR PARISHES

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



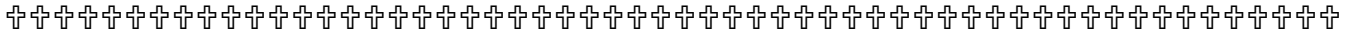
St. Ambrose Parish

- 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.

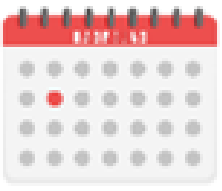
St. Ambrose Knights of Columbus meets the 1st Wed. each month at 7 pm (except July/Aug.)

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



This week in our parish Dec. 3—Dec 9

- Mon. Dec. 4:** CWL Rosary at 10 am; CWL Anniversary meeting 1—3 pm
- Wed. Dec. 6:** Knights of Columbus meeting 7 pm
- Thurs. Dec. 7:** **Feast of St. Ambrose;** Advent Penitential Service 7 pm
- Sat. Dec. 9:** Memorial Mass for Sini Eringfeld 11 am



Pastoral Care Ministry: Please phone the team listed below on Saturday Dec. 9 if you wish to receive Holy Communion after the 9 am Sunday Mass on Dec. 10, and please remember to have another person present with you when the Pastoral Care Ministers arrive.

Dec. 10 Team: Bonnie 403-345-4596 and Diann 403-345-4945

St. Ambrose CWL News: Elections of the Executive will take place at the General Meeting Dec. 13 at 7 pm. There are 7 Executive positions that need to be filled. For more info, please contact: Mary-Ann, Lydia, Lisa or Lynne. We always need new faces and new ideas!



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

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. 3, 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 Attendance, by phoning or texting 403-331-7618.

The Feast of St. Ambrose is Thursday, December 7. This day is already booked for our Advent Penitential Service, so we will **celebrate our Patron Saint on Sunday, December 10** after the first Mission talk.

Did you know: St. Ambrose was born in Gaul (now Germany) but grew up in Rome.
St. Ambrose is the official patron saint of beekeepers.
St. Ambrose was a musician and composed many hymns.
St. Ambrose's symbols are a pen, a book of ancient music, a chalice, a writing table and books, a pen, a bull, a dove and a goose. And, of course, a beehive!



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:

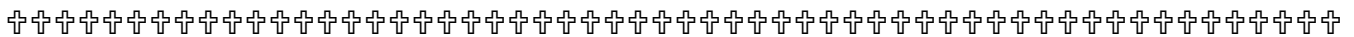
Thursday/Jueves 6:00—7:30 pm

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. 10	Elaine	Jackie		Not yet.	?
Dec. 17	Liz	Austyn			?



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: Ladies Christmas Party Dec. 6 at 6:00 pm at Elizabeth Stroeve's home. The meat will be provided, everything else is potluck! Please bring a friend if you wish.

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

Children's Christmas Party on Dec. 17!! Right after Mass in the Hall with Santa, food, goodies, crafts and more. All are welcome!



¡¡Fiesta de Navidad Infantil el 17 de diciembre!! Inmediatamente después de la Misa en el Salón con Santa, comida, golosinas, artesanías y más. ¡Todos son bienvenidos!

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 brillante para alguien que ¿está luchando?

St. Catherine of Alexandria's Feast Day was November 25, and was celebrated in the parish on November 26 with a potluck after the Mass. St. Catherine is the Patron Saint of philosophers, preachers and students, particularly female students seeking higher education, and of those who work with wheels or mills. St. Catherine was well educated and a great debater.