



December 25, 2019 | Christmas

Canadian Martyrs Catholic Parish

835 Northmount Dr. N.W. Calgary, AB T2L 0A3 | 403 284 3311 | canadianmartyrsparish.ca

The Birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour — Christ the Light and the Light of Christ



The shopping is done, all the presents are bought and wrapped, the house is clean and the tree with all its decoration is shining brightly. So what has all this hectic busyness been about?

When we have a birthday in our own family, what do we do? We gather around the person whose birthday it is and as a family, then we do two things: *We remember and we celebrate.* We remember the time and date the person was born. We look back and remember the day they came in to our family. We might look at photographs of them and recall how they looked when they were young. We tell stories about them when they were young; we remember their first words, the first days at a school and other significant events in their early life. Then we celebrate with them. We give thanks and celebrate the difference they have made and continue to make to our family.

This is exactly what we do on Christmas Day: *we remember* and *we celebrate.* We recall and tell the story of how and when Jesus was born. We tell the story of Mary and Joseph being turned away from the inn, we remember that the angels appeared with good news and we remember how shepherds and the kings visited the stable. Then we celebrate

We have to be careful that we don't look at Christmas as if it

**What am
I remembering?
What am
I celebrating?**

were just a historical event that happened in the past. The birth of Jesus is an event that echoes and ripples through the centuries right down to us today. We are asked not to experience Christmas and the birthday of Christ as a nice romantic thing as is often depicted on Christmas cards.

Through the birth of Christ, God enters our time and history, and more importantly each of our own personal lives. Christ is Emmanuel, *God-is-with-us*, and God is with each of us today in a very personal and intimate way.

As pope, John Paul II, wrote, *“the mystery of the birth of Jesus that took place over 2000 years ago must be lived today and every day. The Word that found a dwelling place in and through Mary comes to knock on our hearts this Christmas and every Christmas, today and every day.”*

This Christmas, while all the celebrations and festivities are taking place, let’s stop, take some time and ask ourselves, what am I remembering? What am I celebrating?

May the Light of Christ and Christ the Light bless our

world and fill all our homes and families, this Christmas Day and always. Amen.

Michael Moore OMI

SO THIS IS CHRISTMAS?

“And so this is Christmas and what have you done? Another year over, a new one just begun.” - John Lennon

This year marks my 48th Christmas!

Forty-eight times I have celebrated the feast of God becoming man in the Incarnation. Forty-eight times I have sat in front of a Christmas tree and opened presents from those who love me the most. Forty-eight times.

Forty-eight seems like a lot to me, and for those older than me, that means even more Christmases to celebrate.

I have some great Christmas memories. I also have some memories of Christmas days that didn’t end up quite like I had planned. But all in all, there have been forty-eight times when Christmas just took over all my being for a day.

This year, Christmas will begin that really big change in my life. I will turn on the radio and I will be asked in a song, “And so this is Christmas and what have you done?” This year I will say that I fell short again, but next Christmas? Next Christmas, I will say that was the year I truly made a difference in my world. Yes, I am holding out for Christmas #49.

Hopefully, after reflection about the months gone by, you will be able to say, “This was the best year yet! I really used my gifts from God to impact the world around me.” If not, let’s make a resolve to meet up again with next year’s Everyday Stewardship reflection for Christmas.

That will be the year for which God has been waiting. Right?

Tracy Earl Welliver

How Long Does Christmas Actually Last?

Trying to understand the true significance of an event like Christmas can't be done in a single day.

Like the epic natural beauty of the Grand Canyon, or the Baroque majesty and splendour of St. Peter's Basilica, we need multiple viewings to take it all in. So it is with the Nativity.

For Catholics, Christmas is not just over and done with on December 25. It's only just begun! At a time when many are taking down their decorations and throwing their Christmas tree to the curb, Catholics should be celebrating.

Christmastide is the name given to the Christmas season in the liturgical calendar. It begins on Christmas Eve and ends on the Sunday celebrating the Baptism of the Lord. This usually gives us a **Christmas season of around 20 days** or so.

In the older tradition, **before the Second Vatican Council, the Christmas season lasted a whole 40 days, echoing the 40 days of Lent.** The liturgical calendar of the Extraordinary Form of the Mass still celebrates an extended Christmas, so modern-day Latin Mass-goers will find themselves in the Christmas season until February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Of special note is that the Christmas season kicks off with a gift — seven special days other than December 25th, designed to extend our focus on the mystery of Christ's birth. During these days, we're to take in all the joys and graces associated with such a momentous event.

These days are called the "Octave of Christmas," and you can remember their timing because the Octave starts and ends with solemnities — the Nativity of the Lord on December 25, and Mary, Mother of God on January 1st. Both are Holy Days of Obligation.

At one time there were actually 15 feast days in the Church that included Octaves, but since 1969, only Christmas and Easter are extended by these special days of celebration.

Ultimately, while all these details of the season can get a bit confusing at times, the major conclusion to draw is this: our Christmas celebrations are often way too short, and end far too early! So don't miss out on the opportunity to stay in a holy, holiday spirit by celebrating for the *entire* Christmas season this year.

Allyson Kenny



MASS TIMES

Monday– Saturday 9:00 am

Saturday 5:00 pm Vigil Mass
(Confessions 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm)

Sunday 9:00 am, & 10:45 am

Children's Liturgy of the Word (ages 3-7) held (Sept — June) at the 10:45 am Sunday Masses except on holidays and long weekends of the Calgary Catholic Schools.

MASS INTENTIONS

TUESDAY, DEC 24

9:00 AM Lisa Audia (LIV)

5:00 PM Canadian Martyrs Parishioners

8:00 PM Canadian Martyrs Parishioners

WEDNESDAY, DEC 25

10:00 AM Canadian Martyrs Parishioners

THURSDAY, DEC 26

9:00 AM Blaize Callbeck (LIV);

Lois & Don Goodfellow (LIV)

FRIDAY, DEC 27

9:00 AM Xander Verhage (LIV);

Joe Guartiere (RIP); Bill Yukem (RIP)

SATURDAY, DEC 28

9:00 AM Fernandes & Sequeira Families
deceased relatives (RIP); Fernando Andor (RIP)

5:00 PM Douglas Pak & Jin Yong Yun (LIV);
Capati Family (RIP)

SUNDAY, DEC 29

9:00 AM Ann Kapell (RIP)

10:45 AM Grace & Neir Tomyn (LIV)

MONDAY, DEC 30

9:00 AM Fr. Gaspar Fernandes & his Mission

TUESDAY, DEC 31

9:00 AM Domingo & Desiree Lucero 10th Wedding
Anniversary (LIV)

5:00 PM Canadian Martyrs Parishioners

WEDNESDAY, JAN 1

10:00 AM Canadian Martyrs Parishioners

THURSDAY, JAN 2

9:00 AM Canadian Martyrs Parishioners

FRIDAY, JAN 3

9:00 AM Felipe Cueto Jr. (RIP)

Thanksgiving 33rd Wedding Anniversary for
Ayo-Gegajo (LIV)

Our Parish Vision:

“FORMING MISSIONARY DISCIPLES” IN
BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Our Parish Mission:

WE SERVE THE PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH,
COMMUNITY AND DIOCESE BY LIVING
OUT THE EVANGELIZING MISSION OF
CHRIST WITH FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

WELCOME to all new parishioners and
visitors. Please take a moment to fill out a
registration form in the foyer. Our ushers
will be happy to assist you.

Weekend Masses

Saturday - 5:00 pm

Sunday - 9:00 am

Sunday - 10:45 am

*Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ages 3-7)
held (Sept — June) at the 10:45 am Sun-
day Masses except on holidays and long
weekends of the Calgary Catholic
Schools.*

Syro Malabar (Sanctuary & Brebeuf)
Sunday—3:30—7:00 pm

Weekday Masses

Monday – Saturday 9:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 4:00 – 4:45 pm or anytime by
appointment.

Blessed Sacrament Adoration:

Every Friday at 9:30 am – 10:00 am

Rosary:

Mon.- Friday 8:30 am (before Mass)

Sunday, 8:30 am & 10:15 am (before
Mass)

Our Mother of Perpetual Help

Devotion: Saturday morning 9:00 am
Mass

Baptism

A family interview with the priest is re-
quired prior to any arrangement for the
baptism of a child. Baptismal instruction is
obligatory for both parents.

Wedding Arrangement:

Couples contemplating marriage should
contact a priest at least six months prior to
the date chosen.

Hospital Visit: If you have a family
member or you have the permission of
someone in the hospital who would like a
visit by one of our priests to receive Anoint-
ing of the Sick, please call the Parish
Office at 403 -284-3311.

For after-hours emergency situations

call 403-869-7382

For more information please email:

secretary@canadianmartyrsparish.ca

THE GIFT OF GENEROSITY

During this holiday season,
we thank everyone who
has supported Canadian Martyrs
Parish this past year with their
time, talent and financial contri-
butions and look forward to con-
tinued support from all of our
members in the year ahead.

Coming into the end of the year,
the parish is running a cash flow
deficit of just under \$16,000. As
you plan your year-end giving
would you prayerfully consider
making an extra contribution to
help the parish end the year in
the black?

CRA regulations require that
any contribution that you wish
to have included in your 2019
statement be received at the
parish office by noon on Decem-
ber 31 or be postmarked on or
before the 31st.

Thank you very much for your faithful and
generosity in support of our parish throughout
the year! Please pray with us for a good finish
to 2019.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

*“When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the
Lord had commanded him and took his wife into
his home.” (Matthew 1:24)*

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without
expecting anything in return. Striving to put
God first in all things and follow Him wherever
He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of
our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to
be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Question:

I’ve noticed that when I
go to Mass at different
parishes, sometimes peo-
ple say and do different
things. Why is that?

Answer:

The Mass in its current
form has taken shape over
the course of 2,000 years.
Over time, traditions,
structures, and prayers
have been put into place.
There are certain rubrics
for the Mass that are nor-
mative wherever you go.
This means you could
attend Mass in Malawi or
Thailand or Italy and still
watch the same basic lit-
urgy unfold, even if you

don’t understand the lan-
guage. There may be
some cultural differences
from place to place,
things that aren’t specifi-
cally listed. For example,
in the United States most
people go up for Com-
munion in a nice neat
line. In Europe, everyone
gets up around the same
time. It’s a bit of a free-
for-all! Some people
might take it upon them-
selves to change things
individually. People may
not like something that
feels too “liberal” or
“conservative,” and they
may take a well-meaning
stance in the opposite
direction. When people
(including the presiders)
do things that are dis-

tracting or change the
liturgy, it introduces an
element that breaks the
unity of the assembled
community. The im-
portant thing to remem-
ber is that we gather as
the Body of Christ to cele-
brate the Eucharist. If
you are confused, ask! If
you are frustrated, pray
for the spirit of charity.

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