

Miss Dionne

MRS. ASHLEY

EVERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR
CHILDREN OF ST. MARTHA
FAMILIES!

Mrs. Clamp

Mrs. Scott-Perry

Ms. Schmidt

Mrs. Bague
Anna Endrik

Miss Viejon

Mrs. Wilson
Mrs. Platt

Mr. Hoff

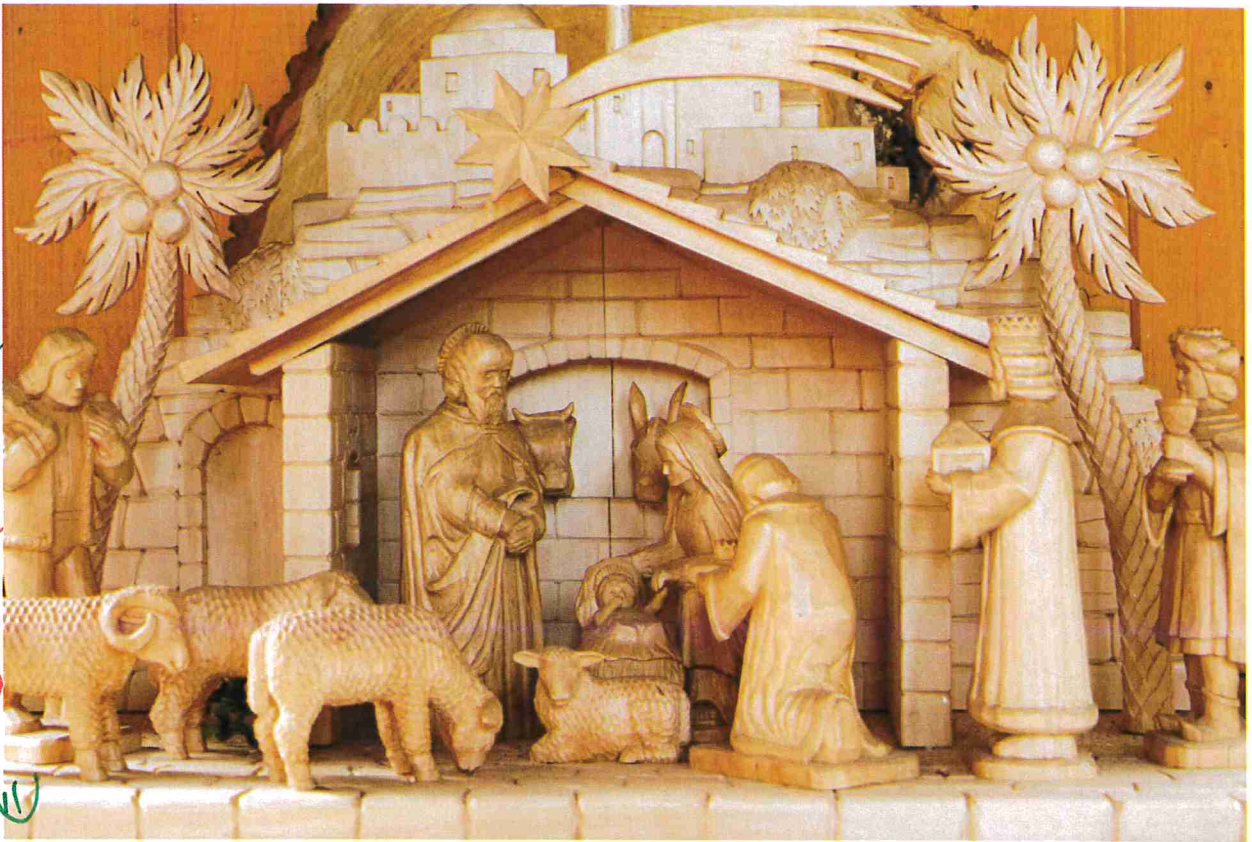
Mrs. Maw

Mrs. Cornican

Mrs. Marsh

Mrs. Long

Sherril
Gannett



Mo. Wallace

WE HOPE THE NEW YEAR BRINGS

YOU RENEWED JOY!

Mrs. Mac

Mrs. Schmold

Mrs. Amonson

Mrs. Chan

Julie Kroetsch
Mrs. Snopek
Boscher

Mrs. Ho

Mrs. Hoytos

Mrs. Korts
Mrs. Hungry Wolf

Constance
Brockford



December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 First Week of Advent liturgy	2
3 First Sunday Of Advent  Advent	4 Pd Day No school for students	5	6	7 Christmas FAMILY Craft Night 5:30-7:30PM GR4H&2C GOING TO MASS 9:00 AM	8 Second Week of Advent Liturgy	9
10 Second Sunday of Advent  Advent	11	12 Turkey Lunch for Staff and students! Christmas Cheer day Wear your Christmas hats, shirts etc.	13 Fr. Monis Classroom visits	14 Kindergarten Family Fun Day	15 Third Week of Advent Liturgy	16
17 Third Sunday of Advent  Advent Advent	18	19	20 Division Board Meeting	21 Recognition Assembly Advent Mass 9:00am at the church Join us	22 Pj Day  Let's be comfy for our last day	23
24 Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas Day 	26 Boxing Day HAPPY BOXING DAY! 	27	28	29	30/31 New Year's Eve



Mass Times for St. Martha Church

Sunday December 24th- Fourth Sunday of Advent- 10:00am

Christmas Vigil Masses for December 24th- 5:00pm, 7:00pm & 10:00pm

Monday December 25th Christmas Day-Mass at 10:00am

Sunday December 31st- Mass times- 9:00am & 11:00am

Adoration -5:30pm

Mass at 6:00pm

Monday January 1st 2024- Mass time – 10:00am

Have a Blessed Christmas Season

ADVENT CALENDAR 2023

BRING YOUR FAMILY CLOSER IN WELCOMING JESUS!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1st Advent Sunday 3 	St. John of Damascus 4 	5 	St. Nicholas 6 	St. Ambrose 7 	The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary 8 	9
2nd Advent Sunday 10 	St. Damasus 11 	Our Lady of Guadalupe 12 	St. Lucy 13 	St. John of the Cross 14 	15 	16
3rd Advent Sunday 17 	18 	19 	20 	St. Peter Canisius 21 	22 	St. John of Kanty 23
4th Advent Sunday 24 	<div> <div> 25 Nativity of the Lord </div> <div> </div> <div> MERRY CHRISTMAS! COME, LORD JESUS! SHOW US YOUR FACE. </div> <div> <p>YOU ARE CALLED. YOU MATTER.</p> <p>YOU belong</p> <p>catholiccyc.ca/RENEWAL</p> </div> </div> <div data-kind="ghost"></div> <div data-kind="ghost"></div> <div data-kind="ghost"></div> <div data-kind="ghost"></div> <div data-kind="ghost"></div>					

SHOW AFFECTION

Express what it is you love or admire in one another

WORK AS A TEAM

Grow closer through team work and by sharing household chores

HAVE FUN

Have fun as a family, be a source of joy for one another

LISTEN

Listen more, and learn how to take better care of one another

CELEBRATE

Celebrate Mass as a family; read, draw together, or talk with one another about stories in the Bible

GIVE THANKS

Thank Jesus for daily blessings; bless one another before each new activity with the sign of the cross on the forehead

BE OF SERVICE

Do something good for others as a family; help care of the poor, lonely and isolated



Let's Celebrate!

Saint Nicholas

Day

DECEMBER 6

6 pm

St. Martha's gathering space



FOR RESERVATIONS

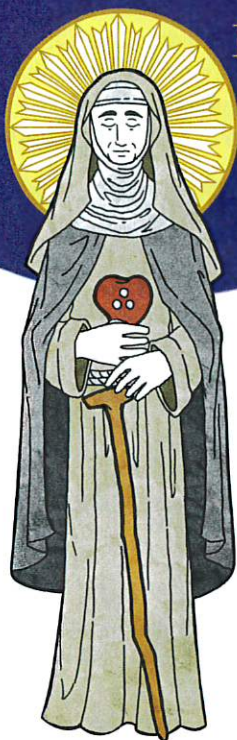
SCAN THE QR CODE



or email: office@stmarhasparish.ca

December

Build! Pilgrims of Hope



*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you..."*

Jeremiah 1:5a

St. Margaret of Castello 1287-1320 (Feast Day: April 13)

Margaret was born in Perugia, Italy in 1287. We know that she was born with a medical condition known as dwarfism, was blind, and had other physical disabilities as well. Her parents, who were nobles, hid her from the public and eventually walled her into a room adjacent to the chapel. It was there that she began her spiritual journey, attending Mass and receiving the sacraments. She became devoutly spiritual during this time of solitude and when she was about 16, her parents took her to a church at Castello, where miracles were said to have happened, seeking for her to be cured. When this did not occur, they abandoned her there.

Consequently, she spent time living amongst the poor of the town before being taken in by a religious family. She joined the Dominican Third Order of Castello, and spent the remainder of her life in prayer, and performing acts of penance and charity to those around her. Her devotion and holiness were so well known in her community that upon her death in 1320, they demanded that she be buried in the local church. She was canonized by Pope Francis in April of 2021, and her incorrupt body still lies in that church in Castello 700 years later.

"Building" In Our Schools

It's important to remember and honour those who have served before us - be it in our community or in service to our country. With the help of Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Picton's students, St. Teresa of Calcutta School held a Remembrance Day service, while St. Mary School in Taber hosted a Community Remembrance Day ceremony. On November 9th, a special Mass was held at St. Basil Catholic Education Centre to honour retired staff for their work and support of Catholic Education. *"I thank my God every time I remember you..."* Philippians 1:3

"For we are God's servants, working together..." 1 Corinthians 3:9a



Corporal Works of Mercy — Advent —

As we enter Advent this month, we would like to highlight a resource and a request.

In Holy Spirit, we have a divisional license for the [FORMED](#) platform. This service provides abundant Catholic content for your use with your staff, students, or your own formation. For [Advent](#), they have two new series, an interactive Advent calendar, as well as some Advent FAQs. *Rooted* will be a daily Advent reflection video series, while *Drawing Closer to God* is a Catholic art show for kids!

You will also know that we are working collaboratively this year with Chalice to support the St. Odilia building project. A number of schools are working on fundraising efforts through Advent to support this initiative, and recall that you can also make individual donations through [SchoolCashOnline](#). If you or a community partner would like to make a larger contribution, please let us know!



"...the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." (Matthew 1:23)



[VIEW FULL SIZE](#)

Pope's Prayer Intentions - For people with disabilities
- Let us pray that people with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusion programmes that value their active participation.

[Home Page](#)

Catholic Social Teaching — Participation —

Through the course of this year, we will look each month at one of the Catholic Social Teachings. The aim of Catholic Social Teaching is to shine the light of the Gospel on our contemporary world, allowing us as disciples of Christ to look at the world around us with new eyes, and to take action.

Last month, we looked at subsidiarity - the idea that we should seek to address needs at the most local level and create solutions with those around us. Participation is closely linked to subsidiarity. As part of our living together, we also believe that each person is entitled to participate in making decisions that affect their lives, and to actively involve those around us in those processes, whether economic, social, or political. This is a way of balancing the dignity of each person with the pursuit of the common good.

As Pope Benedict XVI noted in *Caritas in Veritate*,

Subsidiarity respects personal dignity by recognizing in the person a subject who is always capable of giving something to others.

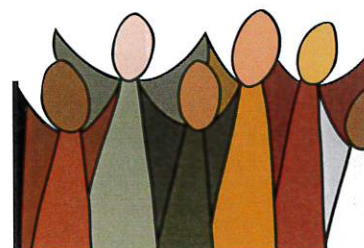
The Pope's Prayer Intention this month is for people with disabilities - that they may be at the centre of our societies and that we value their active participation. St. Margaret of Castello shows us the importance of this, and the positive impacts that those with disabilities have on all of us.

Learn more about Participation with one of these resources:

The Religion Teacher - [Participation](#)

Caritas EU - [Participation](#)

USCCB - [Participation](#)



*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."* (1 Peter 4:10)

Gospel Readings

December 3, 2023

1st Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:33-37

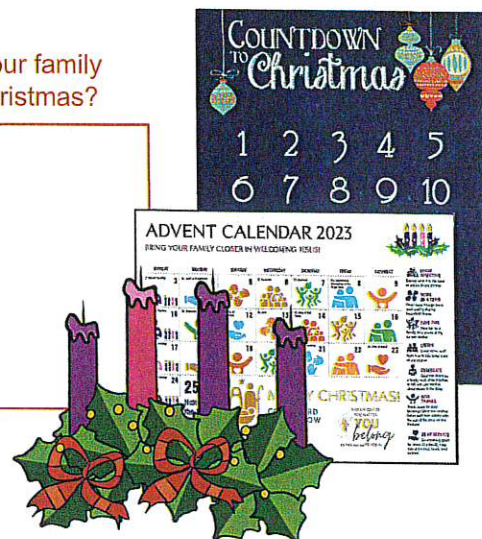
"What I say to you I say to all: 'Watch!'" — Mark 13:37

Whenever something exciting is coming in our lives, we wait for it with great anticipation. If it is a birthday or a holiday, there is a lot to do to prepare for it. We put all our energy into the preparations without hesitation because we know how much fun it will be when the day comes. Today's scripture reminds us to prepare ourselves with this same excitement and anticipation for Christ's coming. Since it is the season of Advent, we are preparing to celebrate Christ's birth. But we are also called to be prepared every day of our lives. Jesus wants us to be ready to meet him any day, any time, anywhere.

An Advent wreath helps us count the four weeks of preparation for Christ's birth. Does your family have an Advent wreath or another Advent tradition that helps you count the days until Christmas?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, show me how I can best prepare my heart and mind to meet you whenever you come.



December 8, 2023

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

"Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'" — Luke 1:38

People sometimes mistakenly believe that this feast is about when Mary became pregnant with Jesus. Instead, this feast day is about MARY's birth. From the very moment when Mary began to grow in the womb of her mother, St. Anne, she was without sin. Mary received this special grace from God so that she could live unselfishly her entire life.

God knew that Mary would accept his plan to bring Jesus into the world as a human baby, so he prepared a perfect soul for her so she would become the Mother of his perfect Son.

Can you pray the Hail Mary? The first part of that prayer comes from the words the angel Gabriel said when he appeared to Mary.

Prayer:

Sweet Mother Mary, please help me to trust and obey God just like you did.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour
of our death.
Amen.



Download this month's [Saint Prayer Card](#) - St. Margaret of Castello



Gospel Readings

December 10, 2023

2nd Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

"...prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." — Mark 1:3

Preparing is what everyone seems to be doing this time of the year. People are buying presents, writing cards, making cookies, and decorating homes. These ways of preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth are lots of fun. But how are we preparing our hearts? There are many special things we can do during Advent, such as a Jesse Tree which reminds us of Jesus' lineage. We could do Advent meditations as a family to help us think about Christ's coming. We could find a way to serve those in need together. Or we could just pray together as a family in front of our Christmas tree and ask Jesus to help us prepare our hearts for Christmas. Whatever we choose, let us find a special way our family can "prepare the way of the Lord."

What will we do as a family this Advent to prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, please help us to prepare our hearts in a special way as we prepare to celebrate your birth.



December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

"Rejoice always." — 1 Thessalonians 5:16

During this time of year, there are many things that can make us feel happy. We enjoy seeing friends and family. We may like looking at Christmas lights that decorate people's homes. The festive food that seems to be present everywhere is extra yummy. But today's scripture calls us to venture beyond "happy" into "rejoicing!" There are so many blessings around us that our joy should be abundant and directed to our God who gives us all good things! Let's share our great joy with those around us, so the light of Christ will shine during this Advent season and continue through the upcoming Christmas season."

What will we do as a family this Advent to prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, please help us to prepare our hearts in a special way as we prepare to celebrate your birth.



*"I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in
darkness but will have the light of life."
(John 8:12b)*

December 24, 2023

4th Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

"Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." — Luke 1:30

There are times when I do things that I know must disappoint God. There are other times that I've done things that I hope are very pleasing to God. But can you imagine being told directly by an angel that you have found favor with God? That would be amazing! Mary was someone very special to God. He wanted her to carry his Son. She always tried to do everything in her life to please the Lord. During this last day of Advent, ask Mary to pray for us to have the same desire she did, to do everything in our life to make God happy.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for showing us through Mary such a beautiful example of faith.



December 25, 2023

The Nativity of the Lord

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18

Today is a day of great rejoicing! Jesus is born! He has come to teach us how to live with love and compassion. He was here when the whole world was created and he is here right now! Let us spend today and the rest of the Christmas season praising him for his goodness to us.

Prayer:

*Dear Jesus, thank you for continuing to love us.
Thank you for being the Word of God that speaks to
us of your love.*

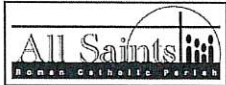
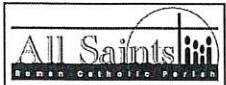
Sources:

[NOVENA TO ST. MARGARET OF CITTÀ DI CASTELLO](#)
[The saint who was abandoned by her own parents](#)
[Meet St Margaret of Castello, the pope's unexpected canonization](#)
[St Margaret of Castello Experience at the NCPD Race for Belonging](#)
[In My Heart: The Life of Saint Margaret of Castello](#)
[Margaret of Castello – the unwanted saint](#)
[2023 Daily Prayers for Families](#)

Division Parishes

"...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:25

 Assumption Church Lethbridge Father Kevin Tumback Father Santiago Torres Mass (Saturday): 5:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am (Live-streamed) 6:00 pm 2405-12th Avenue S. Lethbridge, AB T1K 0P4 Tel: 403-327-8931	 St. Basil's Church Lethbridge Father Kevin Tumback Father Santiago Torres Mass (Saturday): 7:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 7:30 am 11:00 am 604 13 Street N. Lethbridge, AB T1H 2S7 Tel: 403-327-8931	 St. Martha's Parish Lethbridge Father William Monis Mass (Saturday): 5:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am 11:00 am 355 Columbia Blvd. W. Lethbridge, AB T1K 5Y8 Tel: 403-381-8891
 Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Lethbridge Father Gary Sedgwick Mass (Saturday): 8:30 am Mass (Sunday): 10:00 am 643 12B Street N. Lethbridge, AB T1H 2L6 Tel: 403-328-4753	 St. Ambrose Parish Coaldale Father Ian Gagne Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am 4:00 pm 1523-23rd Avenue Coaldale, AB T1M 1E2 Tel: 403-345-3400	 St. Catherine Parish Picture Butte Father Ian Gagne Mass (Sunday): 11:00 am 762 Crescent Avenue Picture Butte, AB T0K 1V0 Tel: 403-732-4433
 St. Augustine Parish Taber Father Philip Van Tinh Le Mass (Saturday): 5:00 pm Mass (Sunday): 9:00 am 5009-48th Avenue Taber, AB T1G 1T4 Tel: 403-223-2226	 St. Michael's Parish Bow Island Father Wojciech Jarzecki Mass: 9:00 am 1101-1st Street E. Blow Island, AB T0K 0G0 Tel: 403-545-2023	 St. Michael's Parish Pincher Creek Father Myles Gaffney Mass: 10:00 am 958 Christie Avenue; Box 339 Pincher Creek, AB T0K 1W0 Tel: 403-627-3071

Motivation...Discipline...Respect

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



Winter Classes

January through April

In Person: January 9 & 10

6:00pm to 7:30pm

Limited Spots Available

Beginners (6ys+)

&

12ys+ Beginners & Intermediate

Registration Packages available at:

www.lajudo.com

Questions? Contact Angie at lethjudo@gmail.com

SPELLING BEE



DATE & TIME:

Mini Bee (Grade 1-3):

Jan. 27/24

Big Bee (Grade 4-6):

Feb. 10/24



LOCATION:

Lethbridge Public
Library

Main Branch - Theatre
Gallery
810 5 Ave S

TO REGISTER:

[https://ow.ly/VA5y50Q
8xJT](https://ow.ly/VA5y50Q8xJT)



Lethbridge
Public Library

CONNECTING
YOU

ABILITY SKATE

Ability Skate is a new sensory-friendly public skating program specially designed for our Lethbridge residents with disabilities. Stay healthy & active by bringing your mobility devices, skates & safety gear to this slow-paced time on the ice!

Civic Ice Arena

905 6 Ave S

Sundays

December 3 | 10 | 17

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Tuesdays

December 5 | 12 | 19

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Admission | FREE

www.lethbridge.ca/leisure

 **CITY OF**
Lethbridge

