ST. JOHN BOSCO
CATHOLIC CHURCH | EDMONTON, AB
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DECEMBER 2025

This Month's Issue:
Youth Mass & Event - Dec 6
Advent Mission - Dec 12
CWL Christmas Store & Bake Sale - Dec 6
KC Children's Christmas Party - Dec 13
Christmas Decoration Home Contest

Part 4: The Wandering Oratory

In the 1840s, Turin's slums were overwhelmed by poverty caused by harsh factories, child labor, and starvation wages. As Don Bosco walked through these streets and visited prisons with Father Cafasso, he felt called to help these boys before they fell into crime. With deep trust in Mary and empty pockets, he embraced his mission: "Give me souls—the souls of the young." Don Bosco gathered a weekly group of poor boys he called "the Oratory," a name that suggested prayer and recreation. It had no fixed location at first, meeting wherever space could be found, since people feared large groups of working boys and the noise they brought.

Each Sunday they met in a different place—churches, chapels, or empty lots. Don Bosco heard confessions, celebrated Mass, taught simple catechism, and then took the boys out for a day of games before ending with a final talk. During the week, Don Bosco visited shops to check on his boys, encouraging them to work hard and stay on track. These were difficult times with no funds and suspicion from city leaders, who feared his growing group. But Don Bosco sought only to guide troubled youth toward peace and purpose. Hope arrived in 1846 when he bought a small lot and an old shed in Valdocco, despite the rough surroundings. A later dream revealed it to be holy ground where martyrs had been buried.

He transformed the shed into a small chapel, convinced that Mary had blessed the foundation of his mission. Each Sunday, 500 boys somehow squeezed inside for Mass. He named it the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales, inspired by the saint's gentle spirit. The humble shed-chapel still stands today—the small beginning of a worldwide mission born from poverty and Mary's guiding presence.



Happy birthday and Ordination Blessings!

Join us in praying for Father Chinna as he marks his 16th ordination anniversary on December 26 and his birthday on December 29. Congratulations and many blessings!

No Weekday Masses in January

Father Chinna will be away on holiday from January 12 to February 13.

There will be no weekday or Friday evening Masses.

Weekend Masses will still be celebrated by guest priests.

For anything urgent, please call or email the parish office.

Christmas & New Years Mass Times

Christmas Eve, **Dec 24th** - 5:00pm, 7:00pm & 10:00pm
Christmas Day, **Dec 25th** - 9:30am & 11:30am
No evening Mass on Friday, Dec 26th
No morning Mass on Dec 30th & 31st
New Year's Eve, **Dec 31st** - 5:00pm
New Year's Day, **Jan 1st** - 9:30am & 11:30am

The office will be closed from Dec 24 to Jan 1.
Please email the parish if you have an emergency or call and leave a message.

December Events

6 - CWL Kids Christmas Store
6 - Youth Mass and Event
7 - KC Pancake Breakfast
7 - Christmas Concert Rehearsal
11 - Baptism Preparation Class
12 - Advent Mission
13 - KC Children's Christmas Party
14 - Christmas Concert
18 to 20 - KC Christmas Hamper Prep
21 - Parish Penitential Service (confessions)
26 - No evening mass/no confessions
30 & 31 - No morning mass

January Events

4 - KC Pancake Breakfast
1-9 - Novena Don Bosco
10 - St. John Bosco Feast Day Celebration
14 - KC Life & Legacy Night
17 - Santo Nino Celebration

December Liturgical, Saints & Feasts

1. 1st Sunday of Advent
3. Francis Xavier, Memorial
7. Ambrose, Memorial
8. 2nd Sunday of Advent
9. Immaculate Conception of Mary
12. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Feast
13. Lucy, Memorial
14. John of the Cross, Memorial
15. 3rd Sunday of Advent
21. Peter Canisius; O Dayspring; Ember Saturday, Opt. Mem.
22. 4th Sunday of Advent
25. Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity
26. Stephen, Feast
27. John, Apostle, Feast
28. Holy Innocents, Feast
29. Feast of the Holy Family, Feast

Confirmation Registration 2026

Faith program for youth in Grade 6 and older

Orientation Meeting
February 12, 2026 at 6:30pm

Deadline for registration
January 12, 2026

Form available online www.boscoparish.com or from the parish office

Star of Joy

Youth and Young Adult-Led Christmas Concert 2025

December 14, 2025
6:30PM
St. John Bosco Parish
13503 40 St NW,
Edmonton, AB T5A 3L9

Faith* | *Music* | *Skit* | *Food

100% of donations collected at the concert are appreciated by St. John Bosco's 2027 World Youth Day Pilgrims!

Knights of Columbus

Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 13
11:00am to 2:00pm

Please register at the back of the church
This is a free event for the young children in our parish!
Join us in the festive fun!

Volunteers are also needed, please contact the parish office if you are interested in helping

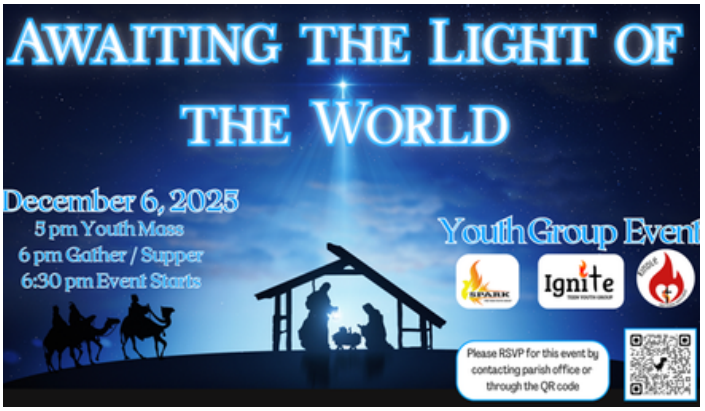
JOIN US FOR THE

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORE & BAKE SALE

Saturday, December 6
10:00am to 2:00pm
St. John Bosco Church 13503 40 Street

Children (K–6) are welcome to shop for Christmas presents for family members
Parents can relax in the hall with refreshments and food items from our concession and browse freshly baked seasonal goodies made by CWL ladies





Parish Penitential Services (confession)

Let us prepare our hearts to welcome Christ

Sunday, December 21, 2025
6:30pm to 8:00pm

There will be seven priests available from other parishes to hear your confession.

St. John Bosco Feast Day 2026

In honor of our Patron Saint's feast day, we will have a **nine-day Novena** starting on January 1st, ending with the Feast Day Celebration on January 10th.

Each parish group will take turns leading the Novena each day.

On Saturday, January 10th, we will host our annual **Feast Day Spaghetti Supper** after the 5:00pm mass.



Congratulations



Archbishop-Elect
Rev. Susai Jesu, O.M.I.
Archdiocese of
Keewatin-Le Pas

Archbishop-Elect will be here at St. John Bosco Church on Sunday, December 14th and will celebrate the 9:30am and 11:30am Masses. Please join us!

Knights of Columbus

Christmas Donations for the Less Fortunate

Non-Perishable Food Items for our Christmas Hamper Program & **Socks, Toques & Mitts**

Donation boxes will be at the entrance of the church

Monetary donations can be placed in the Collection Basket or in the church mailbox and labelled "Knights of Columbus Christmas Hampers"

Thank you for your generosity!



Pope Leo XIV has appointed the Most Reverend Stephen A. Hero, Bishop of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, as the eighth Archbishop of Edmonton.

The Vatican announced the appointment on November 21.

"I am very humbled and grateful for the trust placed in me to take up this new mission in the Church and to serve in a community that is close to my heart," Archbishop-Designate Hero wrote in a letter to the people of the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

He will be formally installed as the eighth Archbishop of Edmonton on January 23, 2026, at St. Joseph's Basilica.

Mass Times

Weekends
Saturday - 5:00pm
Sunday - 9:30am & 11:30am
First Saturday of the Month - 9am

Weekdays
Tuesday to Thursday - 9:00am
First Friday of the Month - 9am

Friday
6:00pm Holy Hour and Confessions
6:45pm Adoration
7:00pm Mass

Confessions - Fridays at 6 pm &
First Friday of the month
from 9:30 to 10:15 am
Other days by appointment

Office Times

Tuesday to Friday
8:30am to 3:00pm
Lunch time - Noon to 1:00pm

November 2025 Collection

Regular	$20,544.30
Auto Withdrawal	$3,820.00
Together we Serve	$2,428.00
Building Fund	$864.00
Children's	$439.90



Pastor: Rev. Chinna, SDB
Parish Staff: Shelly and Joyce

Parish Ministries:

Parish Pastoral Council - Barb
Parish Finance Committee - Robert
Eucharistic Ministers - Barb
Maintenance Committee - Dave
Music Ministry - Angie
Readers Coordinator - Ron
Refugees and Migrant Services - Haimi
Sacristy Team - Kathy
Visitation Ministry - Joyce
Young Adult Group - Karen
Youth Ministry - Todd

Parish Groups:

Catholic Women's League - Shelly
Couples for Christ (CFC) - Ed and Eloisa
Knights of Columbus - Ronan
Legion of Mary - Leah and Jannette
St. Vincent de Paul Society - Ann Marie

Advent & Christmas

Advent is a four-week season of hopeful waiting, prayer, and penance as we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming—both at Christmas and at the end of time. It invites us to reflect on Scripture and to "prepare the way of the Lord" as we await Jesus, our King and Savior.

Christmas celebrates the incarnation: God becoming human in Jesus to bring salvation and grace. The Church celebrates Christmas from December 25 to the Epiphany, and traditionally for 40 days until the Presentation on February 2. This longer season reminds us to rejoice in Christ's birth just as intentionally as we prepare for it during Advent.

Catholic Traditions for Advent & Christmas

By participating in various time-honoured traditions and activities, you and your family can live Advent and Christmas to the fullest.

- **Advent Wreath:** A circle of evergreens with three purple candles and one pink, symbolizing centuries of waiting for the Redeemer and our anticipation of His return.
- **Empty Manger:** Children add straw for good deeds throughout Advent, preparing a soft bed for Baby Jesus placed in the manger on Christmas.
- **Jesse Tree:** Symbols trace Salvation History from creation to Christ, highlighting Jesus' lineage from David.
- **Blessing the Christmas Tree:** A reminder that the tree points to our faith—from the tree in Eden to the tree of the Cross.
- **St. Nicholas Day (Dec. 6):** Children set out shoes in honour of St. Nicholas, the model for Santa Claus. Some families exchange small gifts.
- **Christ Candle:** A decorated white candle lit on Christmas Eve to represent the Light of the World, then used throughout the year as a reminder of Christ's presence.
- **Mary Candle:** On Dec. 8, families place a candle with a blue ribbon before an image of Mary, recalling her "yes" that made Christ's birth possible.
- **Nativity Scene:** Families prepare the manger together, placing Mary and Joseph on their journey toward Bethlehem and celebrating Christ's birth.

Daily Prayer in Advent: Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

