



Beyond Bulletin Insert #CatholicYYC

Is it okay to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

The Alberta & Northwest Territory Bishops have released a letter about the COVID-19 vaccination (dated today).

Many people might be surprised that the question is even being posed. What could be wrong about receiving a vaccine, when we know that vaccinations save lives? The moral

issue arises from the fact that vaccine development and testing often make use of cell lines derived from either the tissue of aborted fetuses or destroyed human embryos. Therefore, reception of a vaccine developed and produced from this unethical research presents us with a dilemma that seriously engages our conscience. The short answer from our Bishops on whether it's okay to be vaccinated against COVID-10 is: Yes, it is.

Learn more about it from the Bishop's letter re: COVID-19 Vaccine.

- [Download Letter here](#)

Mission Mexico - Dec 12/13



Mission Mexico began in Alberta in the year 2000 as a Jubilee project by St. Mary's Parish in Cochrane, Alberta, under the leadership of Fr. Fred Monk, who had decided to raise \$100,000 to build an orphanage in Tlapa, Mexico. Soon, they were joined by other parishes in the Diocese of Calgary and Bishop Emeritus Frederick Henry declared December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mission Mexico Day in the Diocese. Students and parishioners everywhere were invited to join in the work

of Mission Mexico by giving a loonie and efforts continue to this day. Donations to this outreach project have provided greater access to education and self-sustaining projects to the people in the mountainous state of Guerrero, Mexico.

In celebration of 20 years in partnership and in spite of the challenges we are facing, we are encouraged to engage in a special time of prayer, solidarity, and action for the work and ministry of Mission Mexico, for “love does not go on lockdown and close itself away from the poor and vulnerable at their time of great need.” (Caritas Message for World Day of the Poor)

Please share with your parishioners:

- **Letter from Bishop McGrattan for 2020 Mission Mexico Sunday** - [Download here](#)
- **Video of Mike & Lindsey.** Here is a video from Mike MacDonald, onsite coordinator for Mission Mexico, and from Lindsey Victoriano, a former student who has benefitted from the scholarships provided through Mission Mexico. Watch video here - <https://youtu.be/JjwnhCrwJ0o>
- **Direct link to donate online** - <https://www.catholicyc.ca/donatemissionmexico.html>
- There will be a **Second Collection on the Third Sunday of Advent (Dec. 12/13) for Mission Mexico.**
- **Powerpoint images** with real photos of Mission Mexico beneficiaries can be downloaded here: Image [#1](#) | [#2](#) | [#3](#) | [#4](#) | [#5](#)
- Social media or website images will be shared with you next week.

Directory for Catechesis Resources

A message from CCCB - Office for Evangelization and Catechesis:

In October 2020, the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis (OEC) hosted a four-part webinar series on the recently released Directory for Catechesis. We are pleased to inform you that the webinar recordings and the supporting PowerPoint Presentations

are now available on the CCCB website.

In the coming months, the OEC will continue to provide webinars and/or podcasts to focus on themes from the Directory for Catechesis. Examples of key themes for exploration include accompaniment, “Kerygmatic catechesis”, catechesis in a digital age and missionary discipleship. Additionally, the OEC will examine the recently released Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti and its relationship to the themes of the Directory for Catechesis.

- [Click here to access the *Directory for Catechesis* Webinar Series Resource Kit](#)
- To order the [*Directory for Catechesis*](#) - [use this form](#)

Thank you & Urgent Appeal from CCEF

Thank you to our donors and supporters during the inaugural Calgary Catholic Education Telethon in support of the CCEF, St Mary's University, FrancoSud School Board and St Joseph's Seminary. The vision behind the telethon came to light thanks to a great team! You can watch the condensed version here at www.thecccf.ca/telethon

Your donations are still needed - and here are ways to donate to CCEF: call 403-200-7192, Text "Catholic" to 41010, online at thecccf.ca/telethon-donate or E-transfer to donations@thecccf.ca



URGENT APPEAL: Father Scollen School has 60 students who were turned to online learning as of November 30 with no access to a laptop or tablet to learn on. Can you help? Please contact info@thececf.ca

Events & Resources

1. **Second Sunday of Advent - Bulletin Shorts, free to use**

[Mass Readings](#) | **What Sort of Persons?** In this Advent time of looking to the future while living in the now, Saint Peter's question is the right one: "What sort of person ought you to be?" Saint John the Baptist offers a good response and better example. He is not full of himself. He knows his minor place. He points to the One who is both with us now and is also coming.

1. How will my waiting on the Lord make me more humble?
2. What full-of-myself behaviours can I change, can I let go?

3. Works of Mercy take the focus off me for the benefit of another.

Source: Diocese of Springfield

2. **Sisters of Divine Mercy - Adoration Livestream schedule**

Sisters of Divine Mercy invites you to join the Adoration Livestream at the Divine Mercy Centre. When: **Mondays to Fridays from 8 am to 5:45 pm, 7 to 9 pm; Saturdays from 8 am to 10:25 am, 11:15 am to 9 pm.** Watch at: <https://sistersofdivinemercury.org/livestream-adoration>

3. **Virtual Living Nativity in 2020**

Come one! Come all! To a virtual Living Nativity in 2020! In an effort to keep everyone safe this year, St James Parish in Okotoks will be offering an opportunity to prepare for Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus accessible online during Advent. We will be presenting "The Shepherd's Tale" (with permission from *Mother of God Music*), sung and narrated by the Pollock family and Keith Hartman of Black Diamond. You can access this video through the website <https://www.stjamesparishokotoks.ca/living-nativity> starting **December 5, 2020.**

We also invite you to come to St James Church during Advent and spend a few minutes at the stable erected outside the church. Each week of Advent there will be additions to the Stable in anticipation of Christmas Eve, when the Holy Family (actors) will be in the Stable between Masses. We look forward to welcoming you back to the replica of the Town of Bethlehem in 2021!

4. **Christmas In Our Hearts - Virtual Carolling at St. Albert the Great**

St. Albert the Great Parish invites you to "Christmas In Our Hearts" virtual carolling - a fundraising event for the benefit of St. Albert the Great Church. Featuring performances from parishioners. When: **Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7 pm.** Tune in on [SATG Facebook](#) or [Youtube Live Stream](#)

5. **St. John Choir Schola "Nine Lessons & Carols" - REMINDER**

St. John Choir Schola welcome everyone to join the traditional prayer of hope and thanksgiving "Nine Lessons & Carols" on **Sunday, Dec. 13 at 7:30 pm** - from Our Lady of Assumption Church, Calgary. Watch via YouTube livestream link: <https://youtu.be/uQF62SbjhYI>

6. **Advent preparation at home and gift ideas**

This season may have a different feel to it, more solemn, more quiet, but all the more able to be attentive. Attentive to the details of your home, relationships with people and especially to the coming of infant Jesus. If you have yet to decorate your home or begin your Advent preparations, here are a few great local resources from Catholic vendors in the Diocese of Calgary. [Read more](#)

7. **Banff Community Advent Service**

Here is the link to the Banff Community Prayer Service, an Advent offering from Banff area churches. St. Mary's Catholic Parish in Banff also took part at this ecumenical service. Watch this service here: https://youtu.be/79jbJF72_Ws

8. **The Evening of GrACE with Bishop McGrattan, AB Bishops and musician Steve Angrisano**

| Congratulations GrACE for hosting the first inaugural faith-inspired Evening of GrACE. The beautiful reflections from our Bishop and music from Steve Agrisano provided an excellent start to Advent. If you missed this evening please take the time to view it with your respective communities. The link is: <https://youtu.be/RYrAvFaKpp8>

9. **Advent Retreat "Unshakeable Joy" with Cardinal Cantalamessa & Chris Stefanick**

| Joy isn't found in the places where most people would think to look. Joy doesn't depend on a change in your circumstances, but a change in you. Join Chris Stefanick alongside Cardinal-elect Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher to the papal household for Saint Pope John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict, and Pope Francis, for a [FREE online 26-day retreat](#)

10. **CNEWA Canada presents *Witnesses of Hope***

In recent years, the Middle East has been covered by clouds of war, violence and destruction -- forcing millions to flee their homes. Despite the terrible impact on their very existence, Christians continue to witness to the life-changing power of the Gospel. Founded by Pope Pius XI in 1926 to provide pastoral and humanitarian support to the churches and people of the East, CNEWA presents a virtual TV fundraising event to highlight the role and realities of Christians in the region, celebrate their witness and raise funds for their important work. Tune in for inspiring speakers, music and uplifting stories. When: December 10 at 6 pm MT. Watch on Salt + Light - or [CNEWA Facebook page](#) | [Poster here](#)

11. Eight ways to honour the Immaculate Conception this December

The Church taught of the Immaculate Conception for ages, but in 1854, Pius IX infallibly proclaimed it as doctrine, stating that the Blessed Virgin Mary “in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin.” Our Mother Mary remained free of sin for her entire life. Honouring her purity is a strong antidote to the evil we all too-often encounter in this sinful world. Here are 8 ways you can honor the Immaculate Conception this December. [Read more](#)

12. Organ looking for a new home

Angela Martin's family, a parishioner in the Diocese of Calgary, is looking to donate a [Kawai KX 2000 organ](#) (with bench) in an excellent condition, to a church, charitable organization or to a new home where it can be enjoyed again. If you are interested, please contact themartin5@outlook.com