



# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

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BE STRONG, DO NOT FEAR!  
HERE IS YOUR GOD...  
HE WILL COME AND SAVE YOU

ISAIAH 35:4



THIRD SUNDAY OF  
*Advent*

## **Entrance Antiphon** (*Cf. Isaiah 30.19,30*)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

## **First Reading** (*Isaiah 11.1-10*)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (*Psalms 146*)

**R. Lord, come and save us.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith forever,  
who executes justice for the oppressed;  
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free. **R.**

The Lord opens the eyes of the blind  
and lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous  
and watches over the strangers. **R.**

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
The Lord will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations. **R.**

### **Second Reading** (*James 5.7-10*)

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the Prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*See Luke 3.4,6*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to bring good news to the poor. **Alleluia.**

### **Gospel** (*Matthew 3. 1-12*)

When John the Baptist heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples who said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A Prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a Prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

*The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **SUNDAY'S REFLECTION: The One for Whom Our Hearts Long**

At the beginning of the gospel passage today, John the Baptist was in prison when he heard of the miracles, healings and teachings of Jesus Christ. John was curious about this and sent a disciple to ask him, "Are you the one?" Jesus told John's disciples to go back and tell John what they heard and saw. "Tell him all the good things I have done as foretold by the Prophet Isaiah: 'to bring glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind and release to prisoners.'"

Today as we reflect on the life of John the Baptist and his deputation of Jesus Christ as the one who is to come, we cannot help but praise him for his courage. On the other hand, we hear Jesus Christ witnessing to John the Baptist as a great man. We too can be like John to set aside our personal feeling towards others.

Let us open our hearts and soul to welcome the Holy Spirit so that we can continue the works of Jesus by loving and caring for others. Jesus will always be on our side. He will never leave us.

**Pope's Prayer Intention for December 2025:** For Christians in areas of conflict: "Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope."

## ***Our Parish Life of Service***

### **Mass Times**

**WEEKDAYS:** Tuesday-Friday: 12:05 PM.

**WEEKENDS:** Saturday: 5:30 PM; Sunday: 9 AM • 11 AM • 4:30 PM

**Baptism:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month - Parent preparation session required

**Marriage:** a minimum of six months before the desired date.

**Contact:** E-mail: [info@stfranciscalgary.com](mailto:info@stfranciscalgary.com) or Tel: 403-266-2512.

**Confessions:** 20 minutes before all masses or after.

**Rosary:** 30 minutes before Mass.

**Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help:** after Wednesday Mass.

**Eucharistic Divine Mercy Adoration:** 20 Minutes before Mass, every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month.

<p><b>OUR OFFERING TO THE LORD</b> for the week of Dec 02 – 07, 2025</p> <p><b>Loose: \$ 670.00</b> <b>Envelopes: \$ 2,665.00</b> <b>TIA: \$ 525.00</b></p> <p>Thank you for your generosity and continued support of our parish.</p>	<p><b>TOGETHER IN ACTION (TIA)</b></p> <p>Our Parish 2025 Goal: \$ <b>13,861.99</b> Raised to date: \$ <b>9,096.00</b> To raise: \$ <b>4,765.99</b></p> <p>Please help our parish reach the TIA goal by online contribution or by envelopes. Thank you very much. May God bless you for your generous donations.</p>
<p>You can donate directly to St Francis of Assisi's parish by entering this URL on your browser: <a href="https://www.catholicyc.ca/donatetoparish.html">https://www.catholicyc.ca/donatetoparish.html</a></p>	

**Mission Mexico Day | Dec. 13-14: Second Collection**

Joy comes from making a difference to others. Mission Mexico provides hope to the lives of real people living in the poorest region of Mexico. Together we help our brothers and sisters to have a better future, to sow hope among those who suffer. Mission Mexico relies on your support to continue our work with our sisters and brothers in Mexico who experience poverty and are in need of support and empowerment. There will be a Second Collection this Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent for Mission Mexico, or you can give online through <https://missionmexico.com/>.

<p><b>ADVENT, CHRISTMAS &amp; NEW YEAR SCHEDULE</b></p> <p><b>1. ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE</b></p> <p>The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available ½ hour before or after Masses.</p> <p><b>2. CHRISTMAS MASSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wednesday, December 24: 5:30 PM The Nativity Play 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass</li> <li>Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day Masses <u>1<sup>st</sup> Mass</u>: 9:00 AM; <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Mass</u>: 11:00 AM; <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Mass</u>: 4:30 PM</li> </ul> <p><b>3. NEW YEAR'S EVE &amp; DAY MASSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wednesday, December 31: 6:00 PM New Year's Eve Mass</li> <li>Thursday, January 01, 2026: New Year's Day Masses <u>1<sup>st</sup> Mass</u>: 9:00 AM; <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Mass</u>: 11:00 AM; <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Mass</u>: 4:30 PM</li> </ul>
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