



# Saint Michael Catholic Community



800 85 Street SW | 403-249-0423 | [info@saintmichael.ca](mailto:info@saintmichael.ca) | December 25, 2025

Christmas and New Year's

## A Blessed Christmas!

Today, we are celebrating an event which continues to have more impact on the history of humanity than any scientific discovery or technical invention or artistic achievement. The event we are celebrating tonight is something of a completely different order. Here we are speaking of God--- not the gods--- but the only true God, the Infinite, the Timeless, the all-powerful and all-merciful, love without limits--- embracing our fragile and mortal nature in the form of a powerless baby. Truly the birth of Son of God is by far the most decisive and awe-inspiring event of all human history. U2 singer Bono describes his faith in the birth of Jesus in these words: "I see, as an artist, the poetic appropriateness of that unspeakable power manifesting itself as a baby born in straw poverty."

So, Christmas is a glorious aspect of God's manifestation in human history. But the glory is wrapped up with the mysterious decision of the Son to strip Himself of His divine identity to become like one of us. It is a decision of self-giving, of taking on Himself the weakness and frailty of humanity, of emptying Himself to become like us in all things, except sin. Christmas is the culmination of Christ's radical decision to partake of our human nature in order to share with us His divine nature. It is the realization of an infinite movement from the divine to the human so that humanity reaches divinity.

The spirit of Christmas expresses itself beyond the human threshold, in giving without counting the cost or in forgiving without conditions. The spirit of Christmas manifests itself above the human limit, in loving the unlovable, or in giving oneself in selfless service.

In a published interview, Bishop Frederick Henry says that "Christmas is a feast that not only notices the interdependency of people and the earth but celebrates it, revealing that the connectedness of all things is part of the incredibly beautiful divine design. The recurring theme of Christmas is love and reconciliation. Indeed, Christmas is about coming together. It is coming home to God to whom we all belong as children..."

May that "unspeakable power manifesting itself in a baby born in straw poverty" continue to inspire us to love and to forgive, not only today, but every day of our lives. [fredmund@saintmichael.ca](mailto:fredmund@saintmichael.ca)

## Healing Lines

The same joy and peace of this season is parallel to the sadness of indifference and separation brought about by conflict and violence. We have to remind ourselves that making peace must start with ourselves, in our families, and in our communities. We have to challenge violence in all its forms whenever we encounter it, whether at home, at work, in the congregation, or in the community and to stand with others who are treated unfairly. Peace is what we want for Christmas. The peace which this world cannot give is handed to us by the Prince of Peace for our taking.

## Glad to have you here!

We welcome new parishioners and visitors. We'd love to see you again! Please register at the Parish Office, or online at [saintmichael.ca](http://saintmichael.ca)

## Connect with us

Follow us on social media at [@saintmichael.ca](https://www.facebook.com/saintmichael.ca)

Also, join Flocknote by texting **SMCYC** to **514-900-0130** or by visiting [flocknote.com/smcyc](https://flocknote.com/smcyc)



## Church Schedule

*Subject to change*

### Weekday & Weekend Masses:

Tuesday: 6:00 pm

Wednesday to Friday: 9:00 am

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 5:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 am live-stream  
at [saintmichael.ca/Mass](http://saintmichael.ca/Mass) or on Facebook Live

### Reconciliation:

Friday: 8:00 am to 8:45 am

Saturday: 3:30 pm to 4:45 pm

### Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday: 9:30 am to 10:30 am

### Office Hours:

Tuesday to Friday: 9:30 am to 12:00 pm noon

## Home & Hospital Visits

If **you** or a **family member** is sick and cannot make it to Mass, and needs Anointing of the Sick and/or Holy Communion, we can arrange to have one of our priests visit them. Please call the Parish Office at **403-249-0423** to schedule a visit.

**Diocese of Calgary 24-Hour Emergency  
Priest Paging Hotline: 403-231-9505.**

Serving the following hospitals:

Alberta Children's, Foothills, Peter Lougheed,  
Rockyview, and South Health Campus.



## Christmas Mass Schedule



|                                               |                                          |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24:</b>   | 4:00pm                                   | Fr. Edmund Vargas    |
|                                               | 7:00pm (live-streamed)                   | Fr. Edmund Vargas    |
|                                               | 10:00pm                                  | Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah |
| <b>Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25:</b> | 9:00am                                   | Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah |
|                                               | 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed) | Fr. Edmund Vargas    |
| <b>Boxing Day, Thursday, December 26:</b>     | 9:00am                                   | Fr. Edmund Vargas    |
| <b>Friday, December 27:</b>                   | 9:00am                                   | Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah |
| <b>Saturday, December 28:</b>                 | 5:00pm                                   | Fr. Edmund Vargas    |
| <b>Sunday, December 29:</b>                   | 8:30am Morning Prayer                    | Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah |
|                                               | 9:00am                                   | Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah |
|                                               | 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed) | Fr. Edmund Vargas    |
|                                               | 5:00pm                                   | Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah |
| <b>New Years Eve, Tuesday, December 31:</b>   | 5:00pm                                   | Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah |
| <b>New Years Day, Wednesday, January 1:</b>   | 9:00am                                   | Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah |
|                                               | 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed) | Fr. Edmund Vargas    |

## Events and Announcements

### 2025 Contribution Envelopes | Narthex

Next year's 2025 contribution envelopes are available for pickup in the Narthex. Please look for your name alphabetically organized. If you have any questions, please call the parish office at 403-249-0423.

### Knitting Ministry | Thursdays 10:00am Library | Resumes: January 16, 2025

Every year we knit and crochet hats and scarves to donate to charities in December. We heard there was a great need for mitts so this fall we learned how to make mitts! We just donated 76 hats, 33 scarves, and 28 pairs of mitts. Our last meeting is December 12, 2024 and we will resume on Thursday, January 16, 2025. No registration is needed, just drop in!

### Bible Study: *"When You Pray: A Clear Path to a Deeper Relationship with God"* | Mondays: January 13 - March 3, 2025 | St. Nicholas Room | 7:00pm

If you have problems to have a rich and lasting prayer life, in this study, we will learn how to pray with the same consistency, trust, peace, and passion that led to a deep transformation in the saints' souls and you will strengthen your relationship with God. It will start on January 13 with 7 in-person sessions (no zoom) in the St. Nicholas Room starting at 7:00pm. There is no class on Monday, February 17, 2025. To register or to get additional information, please contact Augusto Bitter at [abitter@telus.net](mailto:abitter@telus.net) or Lee Ettinger at [letting1@yahoo.com](mailto:letting1@yahoo.com).

### Grief Share Program | Tuesdays: January 14 - March 4, 2025 | Rooms 143 and 144 | 7:00 - 9:00pm

Grief Share is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and want to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts, and we want to help. This program consists of a video seminar (Christian based with personal stories from Christian experts who have experienced grief), group support discussions with facilitators, and a personal workbook. This is an 8-week program and will run from January 14 - March 4, 2025 on Tuesdays from 7:00-9:00pm. Free will giving/ \$20 charge for the booklet. For registration, contact the Parish Office at 403-249-0423 or email: [peggy.tan@shaw.ca](mailto:peggy.tan@shaw.ca).

## Events and Announcements

### Pilgrimage to Rome 2025 | November 19-27, 2025

Consider joining Fr. Edmund on a holy pilgrimage to Rome on November 19-27 this coming Holy Year 2025! This is a special time to visit the very heart of the Church on Her jubilee year, a tradition with biblical roots, re-started in 1300 AD. We visit the seven (7) designated Jubilee Churches, including the four major basilicas of St. Peter's, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul Outside the Walls. We enter the Holy Door (Porta Sancta) at St. Peter's, Basilica, the Scala Santa, the catacombs, and other holy places. We will also see Pope Francis in a general audience on Sunday, November 23 and on Wednesday, November 26. We also make a road trip to Assisi where St. Francis started his ministry of renewal. Please check it out online at <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1241218>. For more details, contact Fr. Edmund at [efvargas@shaw.ca](mailto:efvargas@shaw.ca) or 403-249-0423, ext.108.

### Christmas Hampers 2024 Update

On December 16, in the spirit of our mission to warm hearts and heal wounds, our community provided 167 hampers for 664 people, gifts for 260 children, and diapers for 45 children. God bless our contributors and collaborators, the Knights of Columbus, That Man Is You, Lynda's Coffee Ministry team, staff of John Costello school, our parish schools for their support, Co-op, Safeway, the parish staff, and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul for the referrals. Total expenses include \$64,000 on food, \$10,500 through the Angel Tree. May God continue to bless the love and generosity of our parishioners. Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas! The Christmas Hamper Committee.

### Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

If you have lost your job, or you know of someone who needs assistance, please contact us by email [SSVP@saintmichael.ca](mailto:SSVP@saintmichael.ca) or phone 403-249-0423, ext. 122. DONATIONS of non-perishables and monetary can be dropped off in the SSVP Food Chest in the Church' Gathering Area. MONETARY DONATIONS can also be done online through <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-vincent-de-paul-society-st-michaels-conference/>. WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS. If you are interested, contact us by email [SSVP@saintmichael.ca](mailto:SSVP@saintmichael.ca) or phone 403-249-0423, ext. 122. You may visit us at <https://www.ssvpstmichael.ca/>. You can follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61566475437004>



**Diocese of Calgary Beyond Bulletin (Short Version):** [Current Bulletin Insert.pdf - Google Drive](#)

**Diocese of Calgary Beyond Bulletin (Full Version):** [Diocesan Info for Parishioners - Sunday Updates - Google Docs](#)

### Weekly Events:

- Sundays:** *Children's Liturgy:* Guardian Angel Room, Session A: 8:30am and Session B: 10:30am/  
*Coffee Connection:* After 9am and 11am Mass
- Mondays:** *Bible Study:* St. Nicholas Room, 7:00-9:00pm
- Tuesdays:** *Rosary Group:* Day Chapel, 6:30pm / *RCIA:* St. Nicholas Room, 7:00-9:00pm
- Wednesdays:** *Coffee Connection:* 9:30am / *Men's Ministry:* Theatre, 6:00-7:30am (last session Dec. 4, 2024, resumes Jan. 8, 2025) / *Women's Ministry Bible Study:* at the Church 9:30am-12:00pm or Zoom 7-9pm
- Thursdays:** *Moms and Tots:* St. Nicholas Room, 9:30-11:30am / *Knitting Ministry:* Library, 10:00am-12:00pm

### December 2024:

- |                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Dec. 22, 29, Jan. 5 | CANCELLED: Children's Liturgy |
| Dec. 24, 31         | CANCELLED: Rosary Group       |
| December 26         | CANCELLED: Moms & Tots        |
| Dec. 26, Jan. 2, 9  | CANCELLED: Knitting Ministry  |
| December 29         | CANCELLED: Coffee Sunday      |
| Dec. 25 to Jan. 1   | OFFICE CLOSED                 |

## Eternal Springs Columbarium

The Columbarium at St. Michael's offers a consecrated and sacred space where the cremated remains of departed loved ones rest in perpetuity. For pricing or more information, please email [columbarium@saintmichael.ca](mailto:columbarium@saintmichael.ca).

## Pray For Our Seminarians:

Peter An, Andre Boudreau, Joshua Capicio, Bennet Chacko, Jonathan Dobek, Samuel Ejeregebe, Evin George, Solomon Ip, Jeffrell Painaga, Antonio Pasqualotto, Mikhel Sari, Benjamin Taylor, Joshua Walter

## Please Pray For:

*If you would like to request a prayer for a loved one, please email the office with your request, noting consent.*

|                  |                 |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Lenore Youngberg | Julian Dumanski | Nenite Mirales  |
| Susan Neri       | Maria Duri      | Gioia Ceccarini |
| Leo Pelletier    | Pietro Duri Jr. | Helen Gal       |
| Elizabeth Myers  | Peitro Duri Sr. | Pat Burchnall   |
| Maddy Azalea     | Rosa Duri       | Sy Huynh        |
| Allison George   | Talia Duri      | Elizabeth Slade |

## For the Souls of:

## Sexual Abuse in the Church

Many suffer in silence. Perhaps you are affected by the news of sexual abuse of minors in the Church; perhaps you are a sexual abuse survivor or a relative of a friend of someone who was abused; perhaps you know about an abuse; perhaps you have sexually abused someone.

Break the cycle of silence: you can choose to talk about it.

Call the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary's hotline at **1 833-547-8360**.

To report sexual abuse, call the police at **1 403-266-1234**.

## E-Transfer:

You can now donate using e-transfer service. Sign in to your own banking institution and e-transfer the amount to: [isupport@saintmichael.ca](mailto:isupport@saintmichael.ca).

## Text to Donate:

Don't carry cash? You can now use text messaging to donate any amount to St. Michael's. To set up your account, text *give* to **833-768-0514** and follow the prompt. Once you're in, text any amount to the same number - anytime.

## Gifts to the Parish

|                                       | September<br>2024 | October<br>2024 | November<br>2024 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>General Collections</b>            |                   |                 |                  |
| Collections                           | \$81,345          | \$120,684       | \$98,134         |
| Other Income                          | \$26,566          | \$32,644        | \$20,264         |
| Operating Costs                       | \$119,780         | \$124,803       | \$101,152        |
| Surplus (shortfall) YTD Optg Costs    | (\$11,869)        | \$25,525        | \$17,246         |
| <b>Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)</b>   |                   |                 |                  |
| Building Fund Collections             | \$16,674          | \$16,540        | \$12,952         |
| <b>Current Loan Balance</b>           | \$3,444,039       | \$3,420,620     | \$3,396,751      |
| <b>Diocesan Annual Campaign</b>       |                   |                 |                  |
| Together in Action YTD                | \$37,456          | \$40,428        | \$60,507         |
| <b>% TIA Goal \$121,243.00</b>        | 30.8%             | 33%             | 49.0 %           |
| Society St. Vincent de Paul (monthly) | \$3,733           | \$7,333         | \$30,587         |

## Mass Intentions

*If you would like to book a Mass Intention, please visit the office.*

*Mass Intentions are not final and can be moved to accommodate urgent pastoral needs.*

## Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve

4 pm: Bill Tapuska †

7 pm: Leslie Choquette †

10 pm: Hilda Cassis †

## Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Day

9 am: Bill Tapuska †

11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael's

## Thursday, December 26:

9 am: Intentions of Katherine and Doug Koop Family

## Friday, December 27:

9 am: Bill Tapuska †

## Saturday, December 28:

5 pm: Michael Joseph Finn †

## Sunday, December 29: The Most Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9 am: Cecilia McGrath †

11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael's

5 pm: Rosa Scalise †

## Tuesday, December 31: New Year's Eve

5 pm: Joe Rino Sr. †

## Wednesday, January 1: New Year's Day

9 am: Intentions of Lee Boyle

11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael's

## Thursday, January 2:

9 am: Pius and Nora McNeil †

## Friday, January 3:

9 am: Intentions of Brother Don Claerhout

## Contact Us

**For General** 403-249-0423

**Inquiries** [info@saintmichael.ca](mailto:info@saintmichael.ca)

**Pastor** Fr. Edmund Vargas  
[fredmund@saintmichael.ca](mailto:fredmund@saintmichael.ca)

**Associate Pastor** Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah  
[frkelvin@saintmichael.ca](mailto:frkelvin@saintmichael.ca)

**Parish Secretary** Loreen Morrison  
[lmorrison@saintmichael.ca](mailto:lmorrison@saintmichael.ca)

**Admin Assistant** Pina Rino  
[prino@saintmichael.ca](mailto:prino@saintmichael.ca)

**Sacrament Coordinator** Francesca Ambrosino  
[fambrosino@saintmichael.ca](mailto:fambrosino@saintmichael.ca)

**Technical Director** Kyle De Jaegher  
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**Music Director** Jim Howells  
[jhowells@saintmichael.ca](mailto:jhowells@saintmichael.ca)

**Volunteer Coordinator** Marvin Matthews  
[mmatthews@saintmichael.ca](mailto:mmatthews@saintmichael.ca)

**Children's Liturgy Coordinator** Caroline Dixon  
[cdixon@saintmichael.ca](mailto:cdixon@saintmichael.ca)

**Bookkeeper** [accounting@saintmichael.ca](mailto:accounting@saintmichael.ca)