



Saint Michael Catholic Community



800 85 Street SW | 403-249-0423 | parish@saintmichael.ca | December 10, 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

The Character of Baptism

The significance of St. John the Baptist in our history of salvation is that he heralded the coming of Christ by proclaiming a baptism of repentance. His baptism is the forerunner of our Christian baptism which gives us the Christian life. Baptism leaves an indelible mark in the soul of the baptized, which we refer to as the baptismal character. Baptism characterizes the baptized, setting us apart, giving us the mandate to share with others the faith we have received. We are marked with the sign of faith.

Baptisms begin the process of integrating the baptized into the community which reaches its fulfillment when we share the Eucharist. Baptism is the first step of a three-step process of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist which are also referred to as the Sacraments of Initiation. It is in the Eucharist (at Mass) that we share full communion with the Church.

Baptism, through the renewal of our baptismal promises, reminds us that we shape our lives by the choices we make. The renewal of our baptismal promises gives us the opportunity to reflect on the direction of our lives and to strengthen our resolve to be Christians. The words of the rite are richly symbolic. They ask us to choose between slavery to sin and the freedom of being God's children, between darkness and light, between the glamour of evil and the simplicity of truth. Ultimately, they ask us to choose between Satan and Christ.

We often refer to baptism as a christening which means joining to Christ. Through baptism we are united to Christ. We become Christians, members of the Church. The original meaning of the word "Christ" is anointed one. In the Scriptures, someone chosen for a special role such as priest, prophet, or king was anointed with a fragrant olive oil. When the followers of Jesus eventually recognized Him as the Messiah, they began to call Him Christ, which means God's anointed one. In baptism, we are also anointed with Holy Chrism to express our unity with Christ and to show that we are called to share in Christ's work as priest, prophet, and king. fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Healing Lines

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." A person who is being abused is not easily identifiable. They may be your neighbor. They may sit with you on a committee at church. Maybe they are the parent of one of your children's friends. They may be the tenant downstairs, the older person who you visit at the park, or your sibling. Be aware that violence against anyone is not just a statistic, but may be happening to people you know.

Mass Schedule for this Weekend

Saturday, December 9 at 5pm - Fr. Jose Bustalino
Sunday, December 10 at 9am - Fr. Kevin Chukwurah with Dec. Randy Gritter Assisting
Sunday, December 10 at 11am - Fr. Edmund Vargas
Sunday, December 10 at 5pm - Fr. Jose Bustalino

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

Connect with us

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

Also, join Flocknote by texting **SMCYC** to **514-900-0130** or by visiting flocknote.com/smcyc



Church Schedule

Subject to change

Weekday & Weekend Masses:

Tuesday: 6 pm
Wednesday to Friday: 9 am
Saturday: 5 pm
Sunday: 9 am, 11 am & 5 pm

Sunday 11 am live stream
at saintmichael.ca/Mass or on Facebook Live

Reconciliation:

Friday: 8 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 noon

Home & Hospital Visits

If you or someone you know is sick, 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**.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 23

Regular Mass: 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve: Sunday, December 24

Regular Mass: 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Christmas Eve Mass: 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm (live streamed), 10:00 pm

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25

Mass: 9:00 am, 11:00 am (live streamed)

Boxing Day: Tuesday, December 26

Daily Mass: 6:00 pm

Wed. Dec. 27 | Thurs. Dec. 28 | Fri. Dec. 29

Daily Mass: 9:00 am

Saturday, December 30

Regular Mass: 5:00 pm

New Years Eve: Sunday, December 31

Regular Mass: 9:00 am, 11:00 am

New Year's Eve Mass: 5:00 pm

New Years Day: Monday, January 1

Mass: 9:00 am, 11:00 am (live streamed)



Events and Announcements

2024 Contribution Envelopes

Next year's 2024 contribution envelopes are now available for pickup in the gathering area. Please look for your name alphabetically organized. If you have any questions, please call the parish office at 403-249-0423.

Funeral Ministry | Seeking Assistance!

The Funeral Ministry is in great need of men to join our team of volunteers to assist Father during the Celebration of Funerals at St. Michael Catholic Community. "To assist at the Funeral Mass is 'A farewell to the deceased in his final 'commendation to God' by the Church. It is 'the last farewell by which the Christian community greets one of its members before his body is brought to its tomb'. (CCC1690) The commitment is 3-4 hours per month. Availability on weekdays is required and training will be provided. Please prayerfully consider assisting us to support our fellow brothers and sisters, adding dignity and reverence as they take their journey home. For more information please contact: Peter Harrison at 403-835-5955. Thank you!

Funeral Reception Ministry | Seeking Assistance!

The Funeral Reception Ministry has been reinstated and we need volunteers. This is a ministry of serving those in their grief and being present as part of the Church community. Our primary responsibilities include serving refreshments and cleaning up. If you are interested, please contact Patricia Quinn at tquinn@shaw.ca for more information.

Sacraments for Teens

Sacraments for Teens is a new program at St. Michael's for tweens and teens who wish to receive their Sacraments, and may have missed them at the regular age. The program is open to all in grades 7-12 (ages 12-17) who are missing two or more Sacraments (whether that be Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, and/or Confirmation). This program allows them to prepare for some or all of the Sacraments in one program, rather than joining the multiple programs offered for the younger kids. For more information, and to register, please visit our website at: <https://saintmichael.ca/sacraments-for-teens/>

Changes at the Sunday 9:00am Mass

Changes at the Sunday 9am Mass will be introduced in the new liturgical year. The Mass will be choir-less, with Jim Howells as instrumentalist and lead singer and may sometimes be accompanied by other instrumentalists. This Mass is intended to be a return to more traditional music and hymns, with worship style music continued to be played at all other weekend Masses.

Weekday Friday Masses | Sanctuary | Friday, December 8 and Onwards | 9:00am

Beginning on Friday, December 8, in the season of Advent, all weekday Friday Masses will be celebrated in the Sanctuary, followed by Holy Hour.

The Elements of the Catholic Mass

We mentioned last week the start of a video series breaking open the Catholic Mass - from the doors of the church into the Eucharist and through to the dismissal. Learn the intricacies of each movement and how the use of scripture comes to life in the sacredness of the Mass. Starting in January - arrive early to Mass so you do not miss this beautiful series.

Simbang Gabi Mass | Saturday, December 9 | Sanctuary | Carols 6:30pm | Mass 7:00pm

Simbang Gabi Mass will be celebrated at our parish on Saturday, December 9 at 7:00pm, preceded by Carols at 6:30pm with the El Shaddai Choir. This will be followed by a reception. Filipino families are encouraged to email Fr. Edmund at FrEdmund@saintmichael.ca or text him at 403-874-2015 if you are interested to help contribute for our Filipino-type reception as soon as possible.

Catholic Christmas Market | Sunday, December 10 | Mezzanine | After 9am & 11am Masses until 4pm

St. Michael's is excited to host a Catholic Christmas Market featuring local Catholic and Christian goods from all sorts of wonderful vendors. This will take place on Sunday, December 10 in the Mezzanine after 9am and 11am Masses until 4pm. If anyone is interested in being a vendor, or a volunteer, please contact Colleen Joy at pcjoy@shaw.ca.

Seniors Christmas Luncheon 50+ Years | Friday, December 15 | Narthex | 11:00am

There will be a Senior's Christmas Luncheon for 50+ years on Friday, December 15 at 11:00am. A Free Will offering is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in attending, please register by Wednesday, December 13 with Bob Choquette at camaro11@shaw.ca or 403-804-3268.

Events and Announcements

Christmas Hamper Program:

Angel Tree | December 9 & 10 | Thanks to all who chose an Angel from the tree last week! This weekend you can also help by selecting an Angel Gift Tag from the tree, available after the Sunday 9am and 11 am Masses. Each tag contains a special gift suggestion for a child whose family is receiving a hamper. Shop for the special gift listed on the back and return it to the donation box in the gathering area by December 10th at noon.

Gift Wrapping | December 13 | Volunteers: Gift Wrapping is Wednesday, December 13th.

Christmas Hamper Assembly and Delivery | Monday, December 18 | If you have volunteered to help, please update your volunteer profile. Forms and information are available here: <https://saintmichael.ca/volunteer/>. Questions about your paperwork? Email our hardworking volunteer coordinator, Marvin Mathews MMatthews@saintmichael.ca.

Questions about the Christmas Hamper Program? | Send to christmashampers@saintmichael.ca.

Referrals | Referrals are accepted from parish schools and through the SSVP intake line at 403-249-0423, extension 122.

Donate | Monetary donations support our Hamper Program and may be made through:

- the collection box, noted for *Christmas Hampers* · depositing SSVP green envelopes located in the SSVP donation bin/lockbox in the gathering area
- online at saintmichael.ca/giving · please include your clearly printed name and address - tax receipts will be issued in January.

Advent Parish Mission | December 18 - 20 | Sanctuary | 7:00-9:00pm

An Advent Parish Mission will be held December 18 - 20 from 7:00-9:00pm at St. Michael's Church with Peter Thompson as facilitator with the theme "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us". This is conjunction with our call to evangelization, that is, to be missionary disciples. Advent gives us this annual call to prepare for the greatest event in human history. The particular themes for the three evenings are: "God's love affair with us", "Who do you say that I am?", and "His mercies never come to an end".

Advent Parish Reconciliation Night | Thursday, December 21 | Sanctuary | 7:00-9:00pm

There will be a parish wide Reconciliation Night on Thursday, December 21 from 7:00-9:00pm. There will be a number of priests available to hear confessions.

2024 Youth Rallies | Jan. 26 | Mar. 16 | Apr. 19 | June 14 | Sanctuary | 7:00-9:00pm

Youth Rallies at St. Michael's Church are scheduled on the following nights from 7:00-9:00 pm: | Friday, January 26 | Saturday, March 16 | Friday, April 19 | and Friday, June 14 | The Youth Nights are coordinated through Michael Chiasson of Access 52. They are an expanded version of our recent Youth Gatherings.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Special thanks to all St. Michael parishioners for supporting the Society of St. Vincent de Paul! We are looking for new members - if you are interested, contact us by email SSVP@saintmichael.ca or phone (403) 249-0423, ext. 122. Donations of non-perishable food items - can be dropped off in the SSVP Food Chest in the Church Narthex. Arrangements for pick up can also be made by e-mailing us at SSVP@saintmichael.ca. Monetary donations - can be deposited in the drop-box in the Food Chest or by online donations through the Parish website: <https://saintmichael.ca/giving/>. Please indicate that funds are for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the drop-down menu. If you, or anyone you know, needs assistance, please contact us by emailing SSVP@saintmichael.ca or phone (403) 249-0423, ext. 122.

Signing Up for Flocknote

You may sign up to receive weekly updates via email or text from St. Michael's by visiting flocknote.com/SMCYC or text **SMCYC** to 514-900-0130.

December-Regular Events

Sundays | Coffee Sundays | Narthex | After 9:00am & 11:00am Masses

Mondays | Bible Study | St. Nicholas Room | 7:00-9:00pm

Tuesdays | Rosary Group | Day Chapel | 6:30-7:00pm

Tuesdays | RCIA | St. Nicholas Room | 7:00-9:00pm

Wednesdays | TMIY | Narthex | 6:00-7:30am

Thursdays | Coffee Thursdays | Gathering Area | After 9:00am Mass

Thursdays | Knitting Ministry | Library | 10:00-11:30am

Thursdays | Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary | Day Chapel | 7:00-8:30pm

December - Special Events:

December 10 | Sunday | Angel Tree Gifts Due

December 10 | Sunday | Catholic Christmas Market | Mezzanine | After 9:00am & 11:00am Masses until 4:00pm

December 11 | Monday | Bible Study Last Session | St. Nicholas Room | 7:00pm

December 11 | Monday | Holy Name School Christmas Concert | Sanctuary | 6:00pm

December 13 | Wednesday | TMIY Last Session for December | Narthex | 6:00am

December 14 | Thursday | Guardian Angel School Christmas Caroling | Sanctuary | 6:30pm

December 14 | Thursday | Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary Last Session | Day Chapel | 7:00-8:30pm

December 15 | Friday | Senior's Christmas Luncheon 50+ Years | Narthex | 11:00am

December 15 | Friday | Confirmation Session 1 | Sanctuary | 7:00-8:30pm

December 18 | Monday | Hamper Day

December 18 | Advent Parish Mission | Sanctuary | 7:00-9:00pm

December 19 | Mass for Advent Parish Mission | Sanctuary | 6:00pm

December 19 | Advent Parish Mission | Sanctuary | 7:00-9:00pm

December 20 | Advent Parish Mission | Sanctuary | 7:00-9:00pm

December 21 | Thursday | Advent Parish Reconciliation Night | Sanctuary | 7:00-9:00pm

December 24 | Sunday | Coffee Sunday Cancelled

December 24 | Sunday | Christmas Eve Masses | Sanctuary | 4pm, 7pm, 10pm

December 25 | Monday | Christmas Day Masses | Sanctuary | 9am, 11am

December 31 | Sunday | Coffee Sunday Cancelled

December 31 | Sunday | New Year's Eve Masses | Sanctuary | 9am, 11am, 5pm

January 1 | New Year's Day Masses | Sanctuary | 9am, 11am

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.

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:

Kevin Thorvaldson	Eileen Peta	Jojo Deleon
Antoinette Vincent	Judy Ivanski	Rosa Duri
Chester Wisniewski	Mara Neely	Elizabeth Chandless
Deacon Frank Peta	Alessandro Bonvicini	

For the Souls of:

Aurora Cruz James Martin William Hall

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.

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

	August	September	October
General Collections			
Collections	\$71,009	\$80,404	\$97,285
Other Income	(\$1,928)	\$13,570	\$29,506
Operating Costs	\$120,402	\$209,168	\$164,849
Surplus (shortfall) YTD Optg Costs	(\$51,321)	(\$115,194)	(\$38,058)
Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)			
Building Fund Collections	\$24,190	\$17,879	\$13,724
Current Loan Balance	\$3,744,046	\$3,721,240	\$3,698,763
Diocesan Annual Campaign			
Together in Action YTD	\$47,782	\$54,212	\$55,760
% TIA Goal \$121,243.00	39%	45%	%46
Society St. Vincent de Paul (monthly)	\$1,328	\$3,623	\$3,473

Mass Intentions

Book an intention online at saintmichael.ca

Saturday, December 9

5 pm: Brian Roach †

Sunday, December 10, 2nd Sunday of Advent

9 am: Ruth Robinson †

11 am: For All Parishioners

5 pm: Mercedes Hernandez †

Tuesday, December 12

6 pm: Branko Skific †

Wednesday, December 13

9 am: Intentions of Gloria Thomas

Thursday, December 14

9 am: Almira Pockar †

Friday, December 15

9 am: Denis Ladouceur †

Saturday, December 16

5 pm: John Kubik †

Sunday, December 17, 3rd Sunday of Advent

9 am: Intentions of Shirley Mathias Family

11 am: For All Parishioners

5 pm: Sheila Foster †

Contact Us

For General info@saintmichael.ca

Inquiries 403-249-0423

Pastor Fr. Edmund Vargas

fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Associate Fr. Jose Bustalino

Pastor frjose@saintmichael.ca

Deacon Dc. Randy Gritter

Randy Gritter rgritter@saintmichael.ca

Parish Loreen Morrison

Secretary lmorrison@saintmichael.ca

Admin Pina Rino

Assistant prino@saintmichael.ca

Sacraments Francesca Ambrosino

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Technical Kyle De Jaegher

Director kdejaegher@saintmichael.ca

Music Jim Howells

Director jhowells@saintmichael.ca

Volunteer Marvin Matthews

Coordinator mmatthews@saintmichael.ca

Children's Liturgy Caroline Dixon

Coordinator cdixon@saintmichael.ca

Bookkeeper Magda Aguillon

accounting@saintmichael.ca