



Saint Michael Catholic Community



800 85 Street SW | 403-249-0423 | parish@saintmichael.ca | December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

Overwhelmed by the Gospel?

by Deacon Randy Gritter

The Gospel kerygma, according to St John Paul II, is "the initial ardent proclamation by which a person is one day overwhelmed and brought to the decision to entrust himself to Jesus Christ by faith". Most Catholics do not relate to this. They do not see themselves as having been overwhelmed by the gospel. We need to find ways to ardently proclaim the gospel.

God is an amazing God, and He created an amazing world. We are the piece of that creation that He truly loves. He wants to be in a relationship with us. Evil came into the world through the envy of the devil. Satan is envious of us. He is not taking on God directly. He could never win doing that. He is only a creature. Yet we are the object of God's love, so he goes after us. He was able to deceive us and cause us to stop trusting God. He still does this. He tells us God does not want what is best for us. He causes us to believe we are better off just grabbing what we want, even when God tells us not to. He still tells us the same lies today. He says we cannot trust God's word, or that we cannot trust Church teaching. Ultimately, he tells us that we cannot trust God.

So, what is the impact of all this? Isaiah 61, which is our first reading, gives us a few pictures of what this looks like. I am going to focus on one, that of the image of slavery. The bible says everyone who sins is a slave to sin. That the powers of evil own us and use us and abuse us at will. They are more powerful than us and there is nothing we can do to escape. Death is that way. Many of us have watched a loved one die and there is a sense of utter helplessness. We want to stop it, but there is just nothing anyone can do. It is just stronger than us.

Sin is the same way. We try and do the right thing. We often fail. Yet we know we should be better. We want to be better. We just are not able to make it happen. We are fighting a losing battle, and it is causing us all sorts of problems that we just cannot fix. Why did Jesus come? It's a simple question. Many people struggle to answer it. We need to understand that He came to fight. He came to save us from the tyrant who is oppressing us.

John the Baptist tells us in today's gospel that we need to make straight the way of the Lord, that the Messiah is coming. We need to respond. There are two groups of people here. There are those that are asking questions and analyzing what is happening. Then there are those who jump in with both feet. Quite literally they are in the Jordan River confessing their sins and being baptized.

There are always two groups. Those that are overwhelmed by the gospel and surrender themselves to Jesus. Then there are those who decide not to fully embrace it. They may not reject it, but they do not really accept it either. Which group are you going to be in this Christmas?

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Healing Lines

Christmas is expected to be the happiest time of the year. But for those who are abused, hurt, hungry, or lonely, the time can be more hurting... Let us reach out to those who find themselves in a hurtful situation at this time of the year. Let us give love and hope...

Mass Schedule for this Weekend

Saturday, December 16 at 5pm: Fr. Jose Bustalino with Dec. Randy Gritter Preaching
Sunday, December 17 at 9am: Fr. Edmund Vargas with Dec. Randy Gritter Preaching
Sunday, December 17 at 11am: Fr. Edmund Vargas with Dec. Randy Gritter Preaching
Sunday, December 17 at 5pm: Fr. Kevin Chukwurah with Dec. Randy Gritter Preaching

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.facebook.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

Children's Liturgy - Cancelled | Sundays: December 17, 24, 31

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/>

Christmas Hamper Program:

Christmas Hamper Assembly and Delivery | Monday, December 18 | Hamper Assembly Day is Monday December 18th. Thank you to everyone who has supported us thus far. This weekend we will be busy setting up, so pardon our disruptions. Everyone who has volunteered should have received an email message from us confirming their arrival details. **Plans change! Life happens!** If you have questions, or you need to cancel, please email us at christmashampers@saintmichael.ca. **If you have volunteered to help:** please take a moment before arriving to check that your volunteer profile is up to date - forms and information available here: <https://saintmichael.ca/volunteer/>. **Questions about your paperwork?** Email our hardworking volunteer coordinator, Marvin Mathews MMatthews@saintmichael.ca. **Still want to help?** It's not too late. 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".

Daily Mass | Tuesday, December 19 | Sanctuary | 6:00pm

Daily Mass will be in the Sanctuary for Tuesday, December 19 at 6:00pm followed by the Advent Parish Mission.

Rosary Group | Cancelled Tuesday, December 19 only

Rosary Group is cancelled for Tuesday, December 19 due to the Parish Mission that night.

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.

Events and Announcements

The Elements of the Catholic Mass | Starting January 2024 | Before All Masses

Why are we asked to all have the same posture as each other in Mass? Kneel at a certain time, stand at a certain time - what does it all mean to do this together as a community? This is answered beautifully in the video series coming up in January. Arrive at least 10 minutes early to Mass so you do not miss the answers to your questions.

Bible Study: "Lectio Eucharist - Discovering the Mass in the Bible" | Mondays: January 8 - March 18, 2024 | St. Nicholas Room | 7:00-9:00pm

Monday's Bible Study for Winter 2024 is "Lectio Eucharist: Discovering the Mass in the Bible". Dr. Brant Pitre digs down to the biblical roots of the Eucharist, through its foreshadowing in the miraculous events of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and Apostolic teaching. It will start on January 8, 2024 with 11 "in-person" sessions (no zoom) in the St. Nicholas Room every Monday at 7pm. To register or to get additional information, please contact Augusto Bitter at abitter@telus.net.

That Man Is You (TMIY) | Wednesdays: January 17 - April 10, 2024 | Theater | 6:00-7:30am

That Man Is You (TMIY) will run for 13 sessions beginning January 17 until April 10, 2024 from 6:00-7:30am.

Women's Ministry Bible Study: "Wild Goose" | Wednesdays: Jan. 17 - May 1, 2024 | Excluding February 14 and March 27 | St. Nicholas Room & Theater | 10:00am-12:00pm | Zoom 7:00-9:00pm

"Wild Goose" was a term that the ancient Celts had for the Holy Spirit. This Bible Study is a 14-part series featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka and various interviews. Shot in various locations from Niagara Falls to the California desert, the "Wild Goose" invites viewers to an encounter, or a renewed encounter, with the Holy Spirit. If you are interested, please show up for any, or all, of the sessions.

Grief Share Ministry | Tuesdays: January 23 - March 12, 2024 | Rooms 143 & 144 | 7:00-9:00pm

Have you lost a loved one recently? Or do you know someone who has? The Grief Support Ministry invites individuals who have experienced loss of loved ones and would like to participate in a Grief Share Program for 2 hours every Tuesday evening for 8 weeks. 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 program will run from January 23 - March 12, 2024 every Tuesday evening from 7:00-9:00pm. Free will giving/\$20 charge for the booklet. For registration, please contact the Parish Office at 403-249-0423.

2024 Youth Rally "Impact Nights" | Jan. 26 | Mar. 16 | Apr. 19 | June 14 | Sanctuary | 7:00-9:00pm

Youth Rally "Impact Nights" at St. Michael's Church are scheduled on the following nights from 7:00-9:00 pm: | Friday, January 2 | 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. The first "Impact Night" will feature Tony Melendez as special guest. Please register for free tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/impact-nights-jan-26-tony-melendez-access52-tickets-772546676907>.

December Regular Events:

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

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

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

Thursdays | Coffee Thursdays | Narthex | After 9:00am Mass

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

December 2023:

December 17 | Children's Liturgy Cancelled

December 18 | 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 19 | Rosary Group Cancelled

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

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

December 24 | Children's Liturgy Cancelled

December 24 | Coffee Sunday Cancelled

December 24 | Regular Masses: 9am, 11am | Christmas Eve Masses: 4pm, 7pm, 10pm | Sanctuary

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

December 31 | Children's Liturgy Cancelled

December 31 | Coffee Sunday Cancelled

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

January 2024:

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

January 8 | Bible Study "Lectio Eucharist" First Session | St. Nicholas Room | 7:00-9:00pm

January 9 | CWL General Meeting | St. Michael's Room | 5:30-9:00pm

January 15 | Bible Study "Lectio Eucharist" | St. Nicholas Room | 7:00-9:00pm

January 17 | TMIY First Session | Theater & Narthex | 6:00-7:00am

January 17 | Women's Ministry "Wild Goose" First Session | St. Nicholas Room & Theater | 10:00am-12:00pm | Zoom 7:00-9:00pm

January 18 | First Reconciliation Session 4 | 6:00-7:30pm

January 19 | Confirmation Session 2 | 7:00-8:30pm

January 22 | Bible Study "Lectio Eucharist" | St. Nicholas Room | 7:00-9:00pm

January 23 | Grief Share First Session | Rooms 143 & 144 | 7:00-9:00pm

January 23 | PPC Meeting | St. Michael's Room 136 | 7:00-9:00pm

January 23 | SSVF Monthly Meeting | St. Gabriel Room 145 | 7:00-9:00pm

January 24 | Women's Ministry "Wild Goose" | St. Nicholas Room & Theater | 10:00am-12:00pm | Zoom 7:00-9:00pm

January 26 | Access 52 Youth Rally "Impact Night" | Sanctuary | 7:00-9:00pm

January 27 | Baptism Preparation | St. Nicholas Room | 9:00am-12:00pm

January 29 | Bible Study "Lectio Eucharist" | St. Nicholas Room | 7:00-9:00pm

January 31 | Women's Ministry "Wild Goose" | St. Nicholas Room & Theater | 10:00am-12:00pm | Zoom 7:00-9:00pm

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:

Antoinette Vincent	Judy Ivanski	Rosa Duri
Chester Wisniewski	Mara Neely	Elizabeth Chandless
Deacon Frank Peta	Alessandro Bonvicini	Josh Helman
Eileen Peta	Jojo Deleon	Helen Gal

For the Souls of:

Peter Droppo Audrey Armitage

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

	September	October	November
<u>General Collections</u>			
Collections	\$80,404	\$97,285	\$89,909
Other Income	\$13,570	\$29,506	\$58,358
Operating Costs	\$209,168	\$164,849	\$135,449
Surplus (shortfall) YTD Optg Costs	(\$115,194)	(\$38,058)	\$12,819
<u>Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)</u>			
Building Fund Collections	\$17,879	\$13,724	\$18,512
<u>Current Loan Balance</u>	\$3,721,240	\$3,698,763	\$3,675,809
<u>Diocesan Annual Campaign</u>			
Together in Action YTD	\$54,212	\$55,760	\$62,408
% TIA Goal \$121,243.00	45%	46%	51%
Society St. Vincent de Paul (monthly)	\$3,623	\$3,473	\$6,455

Mass Intentions

Book an intention online at saintmichael.ca

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 †

Monday December 18, Special Mass for Hamper Day

8:30 am: Franco Ambito †

Tuesday, December 19

6 pm: Mary Simpson †

Wednesday, December 20

9 am: Intentions of Rita Bernales Family

Thursday, December 21

9 am: Intentions of Alwyn Pinto †

Friday, December 22

9 am: Marie Elizabeth Martin †

Saturday, December 23

5 pm: Kamitakahara Family †

Sunday, December 24, 4th Sunday of Advent

9 am: Julius Sult †

11 am: For All Parishioners

Contact Us

For General 403-249-0423

Inquiries info@saintmichael.ca

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Associate Fr. Jose Bustalino

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