



Saint Michael Catholic Community



800 85 Street SW | 403-249-0423 | info@saintmichael.ca | December 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas & New Year's

The Gift of His Presence

"In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God... The Word was made flesh, He lived among us..." (John 1:1, 14)

Christmas is about God becoming human in Jesus Christ. It is about the Mystery of Incarnation which is at the center of our Christian faith. The mystery of Christmas affects all aspects of our Christian life. Christ's becoming human has made it possible for Christ to be present in many special ways, including His real presence in the Eucharist.

Let us be more expressive of our appreciation of His abiding presence by bringing His presence to others through our own love and compassion. Let us be more "incarnated" in our respective families, in our Church, and in our communities in the spirit of Christ's presence.

Let us always remember that our life has been transformed by the great event of God becoming human in Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate His love and forgiveness in our relationships.

May His presence be with us all!
fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Healing Lines

After Mary conceived Jesus, she was at risk of shame and ridicule being an unwed mother. God chose Joseph to take her as his wife and he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, taking her into his home. As we await the arrival of Jesus, let us remember the obedience of Joseph with his love and caring for Mary. Men hold a special role in the prevention of violence against women and children. They can learn to handle their anger in a constructive manner, teach their children to develop healthy relationships, and support violence prevention initiatives in our parish and communities.

Mass Schedule for this Weekend

Saturday, December 23 at 5:00 pm: Fr. Kevin Chukwurah

Sunday, December 24 at 9:00 am: Fr. Kevin Chukwurah

Sunday, December 24 at 11:00 am: Fr. Edmund Vargas

Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 pm: Fr. Edmund Vargas

Sunday, December 24 at 7:00 pm: Fr. Edmund Vargas

Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 pm: Fr. Kevin Chukwurah with Dec. Randy Gritter

Monday, December 25 at 9:00 am: Fr. Edmund Vargas

Monday, December 25 at 11:00 am: Fr. Edmund Vargas

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: 8:00am to 8:45am

Saturday: 3:30pm to 4:45pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday: 9:30am to 10:30am

Office Hours:

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

Frequently Asked Questions: The Christmas Monday

Q: If I attend Mass on the morning of Dec. 24 (Sunday), do I still need to go to Mass for Christmas Day which falls on a Monday this year?

A: Yes! This year, the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas are distinct obligations, each requiring separate attendance (see Canon Law 1248). A Mass on Sunday morning (Dec. 24) only satisfies the Sunday obligation, and a Mass on Monday (Dec. 25) satisfies the Christmas obligation.

To fulfill both, choose one of these schedules:

| Saturday evening & Sunday evening | Saturday evening & Monday morning | Sunday morning & Sunday evening | Sunday morning & Monday morning |

Q: What about Dec. 31 (Sunday of the Feast of the Holy Family) and Jan 1 (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)?

A: Both the Sunday of the Feast of the Holy Family and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God are holy days of obligation. Therefore, the same principle mentioned above applies.

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

Christmas Hamper Program

A big "Thank You!" to all of our 250 volunteers, donors, and supporters for making our Christmas Hamper Program a wonderful event! We prepared 171 hampers, 132 of those hampers going to families with children, 249 gifts to children, and 633 people served in total. Many notes of gratitude were received. Our program costs are estimated at \$65,000. Still wish to donate? There's still time! Monetary Donations may be made through · the collection box, noted for *Christmas Hampers* · depositing SSVF green envelopes located in the SSVF 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 2024. Thank you again for bringing the presence of Jesus to our recipient families! With Gratitude, The Hamper Team.

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/>

Events and Announcements

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

Why do we come to Mass? Why is it so important that I participate when I am in Mass? Is it just about what will I get out of it or is there more to it? There is a video series being shown 5 minutes before Mass, starting in January that will help you understand the Church's teaching on all these very important questions. Come early so you do not miss them.

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 7:00pm. To register or to get additional information, please contact Augusto Bitter at abitter@telus.net.

Knitting Ministry | Thursdays - Starting January 11, 2024 | Library | 10:00am-12:00pm noon

We've been very busy knitting and crocheting and have just donated 147 lovely hats and scarves plus 55 pairs of knitted slippers to several charities. If you knit or crochet, we would love to have you join us on Thursdays from 10:00am-12:00pm noon in the Church library beginning January 11, 2024.

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 7:00-9:00pm: | 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 | 10:00am-12:00pm

December 2023:

December 24 | Children's Liturgy Cancelled
December 24 | Coffee Sunday Cancelled
December 24 | Christmas Eve Masses | Sanctuary | 4pm, 7pm, 10pm
December 25 | Christmas Day Masses | Sanctuary | 9am, 11am
December 31 | Children's Liturgy Cancelled
December 31 | Coffee Sunday Cancelled
December 31 | New Year's Eve Masses | Sanctuary | 9am, 11am, 5pm

January 2024:

January 1 | New Year's Day Masses | Sanctuary | 9am, 11am
January 8 | Bible Study First Session | St. Nicholas Room | 7:00-9:00pm
January 9 | CWL General Meeting | St. Michael's Room | 5:30-9:00pm
January 11 | Knitting Ministry Begins Thursdays | Library | 10:00am-12:00pm
January 17 | Women's Ministry Bible Study First Session | St. Nicholas Room & Theater | 9:30am-12:00pm | Zoom 7:00-9:00pm
January 17 | TMIY First Session | Theater and Narthex | 6:00-7:00am
January 18 | First Reconciliation Session 4 | 6:00-7:30pm
January 19 | Confirmation Session 2 | 7:00-8:30pm
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 26 | Access 52 Youth Rally | Sanctuary | 7:00-9:00pm
January 27 | Baptism Preparation | St. Nicholas Room | 9:00am-12:00pm

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
		Demy Navarro

For the Souls of:

David Lang 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 23

5 pm: Kamitakahara Family †

Sunday, December 24, 4th Sunday of Advent

9 am: Julius Sult †

11 am: For All Parishioners

4 pm: Jack & Paul Massier †

7 pm: Lourdes Sarmiento †

10 pm: Beth Garcia Plena †

Monday, December 25

9 am: Intentions of Correa Family

11 am: All Parishioners

Tuesday, December 26

6 pm: Intentions of Jorge Varela †

Wednesday, December 27

9 am: Peter Pachecost †

Thursday, December 28

9 am: Daniel Habte †

Friday, December 29

9 am: Don and Marg Bryant †

Saturday, December 30

5 pm: Loty Flores †

Sunday, December 31, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

9 am: Elsie Kohut †

11 am: For All Parishioners

5 pm: Joe Rino Sr. †

Contact Us

For General 403-249-0423

Inquiries info@saintmichael.ca

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

Preparation Coordinator fambrosino@saintmichael.ca

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

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