



# Saint Michael Catholic Community



800 85 Street SW | 403-249-0423 | [parish@saintmichael.ca](mailto:parish@saintmichael.ca) | December 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

## Advent According to Mary

While the Season of Advent starts the new liturgical year based on Christ's life and times, it can also be celebrated from the perspective of Mary, Christ's mother and His closest disciple. Our season's preparations for Christ's coming can be inspired by Mary's own preparations for the birth of her own Son, our Savior. It is a period of intense awareness of what Christ's coming presence into our lives means to us, just as what it means to Mary during the late period of her pregnancy. Mary is a model for us as we try to imitate her sense of humility and obedience as she struggles to reconcile her own personal wish to remain a virgin in her entire life with God's will for her to become the mother of the Redeemer. God's presence in her womb is a powerful inspiration that can motivate us to create a space for God's presence in our own personal lives.

The Advent season also prepares us for the beginning of a new civil year which the Church marks with the celebration of the Solemnity of Mary. The season presents Mary as our role model in accepting God's coming into our complicated lives. The season reflects on Mary's sense of openness and humility as welcoming into her own private life the birth of the Savior of the world. It is a Marian season in the sense that it emphasizes Mary's love and generosity as she surrenders her own will to follow God's will in her life.

As we begin to celebrate Advent according to Mary, let us reflect on our popular prayer to her: *Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us, sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

In Mary's fullness of God's grace, we seek to fill our own emptiness for God's love and mercy. In Mary's presence in the Lord, we re-discover our own presence before the Lord in the various given opportunities of our life. In Mary's holiness, we renew our resolve to be holy and to share the love and presence of Jesus with others. With the help and intercession of Mary, we ask God to inspire and guide us to be more conscious of our sinfulness and our need for forgiveness and reconciliation as we remind ourselves of the end of our earthly journey in death and/or Christ's second coming.

[fredmund@saintmichael.ca](mailto:fredmund@saintmichael.ca)

## Healing Lines

*"Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man".* As things begin to get busy this time of year, we need to guard against increased stress and short tempers. Be sure to take care to keep a healthy perspective on the pressures and remember the true meaning of this time of year.

## Mass Schedule for this Weekend

Saturday, December 2 at 5pm - Fr. Jose Bustalino Presiding and Dc. Randy Gritter Assisting  
Sunday, December 3 at 9am - Fr. Fr. Edmund Vargas  
Sunday, December 3 at 11am - Fr. Fr. Edmund Vargas  
Sunday, December 3 at 5pm - Fr. Kevin Chukwurah

## 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.instagram.com/saintmichael.ca)

Also, join Flocknote by texting **SMCYC** to **514-900-0130** or by visiting [flocknote.com/smcyc](http://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](http://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, 5:00 pm

### New Years Day: Monday, January 1

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



## Events and Announcements

### Changes at the Sunday 9am 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.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ssvp@saintmichael.ca) or phone (403) 249-0423, ext. 122.

### Christmas Hamper Program:

#### Angel Tree | December 2 & 3

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](mailto:MMatthews@saintmichael.ca).

Questions about the Christmas Hamper Program? Send to [christmashampers@saintmichael.ca](mailto: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](https://saintmichael.ca/giving) · please include your clearly printed name and address - tax receipts will be issued in January.

### St. Michael Catholic Community Pastoral Council | Update

We held our last meeting of the liturgical year on Tuesday, November 28. Some of the items we discussed:

- Introducing segments from the video series *The Elements of the Catholic Mass*
- Hosting the Eucharistic Miracles display in May
- Increasing the use of Flocknote
- Diocesan Renewal and formation of a Parish Renewal Team

Watch the website, the bulletin, and Flocknote messages in your inbox for more details. Meeting minutes from November 28 will be available on the website after our next meeting on January 23, 2024. If you would like to attend one of our meetings as an observer, or if you have any questions or concerns, please reach us at 403-249-0423. To read minutes from our meeting in October, or any past meeting, please go to: [saintmichael.ca](https://saintmichael.ca).

### Simbang Gabi Mass

Simbang Gabi Mass will be celebrated at our parish on Saturday, December 9 at 7pm, 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](mailto: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.

## Events and Announcements

### Advent Parish Mission

An Advent Parish Mission will be held December 18 - 20 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".

### Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary | October 26 - December 14 (excluding November 2) | 7:00-8:30 pm.

There is a seven week video series on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary in the Day Chapel. Please feel free to show up for any, or all, of the days. For more information about the series, please visit the website at [saintmichael.ca/events](http://saintmichael.ca/events).

### The Rite of Commissioning for All Liturgical Ministers | December 2 & 3

The Rite of Commissioning for all Liturgical Ministers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held at all the December 2 & 3 weekend Masses. During these First Sunday of Advent Masses, Auxiliary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist come forward after the homily and are joined by all other Liturgical Ministers and Volunteers in their respective places for this rite. The Liturgical Ministers include, among others, ushers, hospitality ministers, sacristans, lectors, altar servers, and musicians. Ministry means doing something on behalf of Christ Himself.

### CSSD Advent and Christmas High School Chorus Festival "Hear the Angels Sing" | Tuesday, December 5 | 7:00pm

The Calgary Catholic High Schools will return to St. Michael's for their annual Christmas Choral Festival on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00pm featuring the talented voices of four hundred students. Parishioners are invited to support our Catholic students by attending this gala evening of entertainment and song.

### Webinar: Welcome Home | Thursday, December 7 | 6:30-8:30pm

You are the parish! There are not enough programs or resources in the world that will make your Church more welcoming. No mission, nor vision, statements can ever convey the actual experience of being cared for. It takes the whole parish to welcome others home. Join this exciting webinar with Fr. Troy Nguyen, Dr. Lance Dixon, and Dr. Bonnie Annicchiarico as we explore ways to truly welcome others home this Christmas and throughout the year. The webinar is called *Welcome Home*, hosted by the Calgary Diocese, which will take place on Thursday, December 7 at 6:30-8:30pm and will be over Zoom. If you are interested, please register at <https://www.catholicycyc.ca/renewal.html>. The zoom link will be sent out via email after registering. Everyone is welcome!

### "One Starry Night" Pageant | Friday, December 8 | Starting at 6:00 pm

There will be a Children's Nativity Pageant on Friday, December 8 beginning with a Mass at 6:00pm, Pageant at 6:30pm, and a cookies and juice Reception to follow. There will also be family friendly activities in the Narthex (Gathering Area). A free will offering is gratefully accepted or simply donate online. If you plan to attend this event, please RSVP <https://forms.gle/feVcPxtpsSGR69qH6>.

### 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](mailto:pcjoy@shaw.ca).

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

There will be a Seniors 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](mailto:camaro11@shaw.ca) or 403-804-3268.

### 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](http://flocknote.com/SMCYC) or text **SMCYC** to 514-900-0130.

### Youth Rallies for 2024

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.

### 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 1 | Friday | Community Night | Mass at 6pm | Entertainment 6:30pm | Reception to Follow

December 3 | Sunday | Children's Nativity Rehearsal for Everyone | Sanctuary, St. Nicholas Room, Guardian Angel Room | 12:00-1:00pm

December 5 | Tuesday | CSSD Advent & Christmas High School Festival "Hear the Angels Sing" | Sanctuary | 7:00-8:30pm

December 6 | Wednesday | Children's Nativity Pageant Dress Rehearsal for Everyone | Sanctuary, St. Nicholas Room, Guardian Angel Room | 6:00pm

December 7 | Thursday | First Reconciliation Session 3 | 6:00-7:30pm

December 8 | Friday | Children's Nativity Pageant | Mass at 6:00pm | Pageant at 6:30pm | Reception to Follow

December 10 | Sunday | Angel Tree Gifts Due

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

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 | Seniors Christmas Luncheon 50+ Years | Narthex | 11:00am

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

December 18 | Monday | Hamper Day

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

December 24 & 31 | Sunday | Coffee Sunday Cancelled

## 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:

|                    |                      |                     |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 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:

Elizabeth Schnitzler      Peter Crowley      Serafin Cruz

### 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

|                                            | August      | September   | October     |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b><u>General Collections</u></b>          |             |             |             |
| 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)  |
| <b><u>Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)</u></b> |             |             |             |
| Building Fund Collections                  | \$24,190    | \$17,879    | \$13,724    |
| <b><u>Current Loan Balance</u></b>         | \$3,744,046 | \$3,721,240 | \$3,698,763 |
| <b><u>Diocesan Annual Campaign</u></b>     |             |             |             |
| Together in Action YTD                     | \$47,782    | \$54,212    | \$55,760    |
| <b>% TIA Goal \$121,243.00</b>             | 39%         | 45%         | 46%         |
| Society St. Vincent de Paul (monthly)      | \$1,328     | \$3,623     | \$3,473     |

## Mass Intentions

**Book an intention online at [saintmichael.ca](http://saintmichael.ca)**

### Saturday, December 2

5 pm: Andy-Dick Niyintunze † & Josefina Hernandez †

### Sunday, December 3, 1st Sunday of Advent

9 am: Mirko Ilic †  
11 am: For All Parishioners  
5 pm: Paz Alciso †

### Tuesday, December 5

6 pm: Intentions Fr. Julian Studden

### Wednesday, December 6

9 am: Andy-Dick Niyintunze †

### Thursday, December 7

9 am: Jean Denesuk †

### Friday, December 8

9 am: Intentions Pinto Family

### 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 †

## Contact Us

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

**Inquiries** 403-249-0423

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

**Associate Pastor** Fr. Jose Bustalino  
[frjose@saintmichael.ca](mailto:frjose@saintmichael.ca)

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

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

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

**Technical Director** Kyle De Jaegher  
[kdejaegher@saintmichael.ca](mailto:kdejaegher@saintmichael.ca)

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

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

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

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