



Saint Michael Catholic Community



800 85 Street SW | 403-249-0423 | info@saintmichael.ca | December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday

This *Laetare* Sunday, we light the pink candle of the Advent wreath. The pink motif represents this joyful expectation of Christ's coming.

We rejoice at the nearness of our celebration of the event that has made God present in our humanity. We rejoice at the fast approaching celebration of Christ's birth that has made God present among us, in the sacraments and in prayer, in our daily life and in the signs of the times, in other people and in occasions of serving one another. We rejoice at the promised gift of God's only begotten Son's taking on human form through the Blessed Virgin Mary that renewed our world from within, bringing about an abiding source of supernatural life and liberation from sin.

Our reason for great rejoicing is Christ's presence in our midst which began on the first Christmas Day. We see and feel Christ's presence in people whose lives reflect His love, mercy, and forgiveness. Although harder to see and understand, God is also with us in pain and suffering.

Our readings today urge us to move forward as we rejoice in the signs of God's presence in our midst. And we are called upon to live as a sign of Christ's presence in our daily life, in the midst of our difficulties and the challenges that we face in our journey of faith.

As Christmas approaches, let us re-learn to welcome Christ not only in our hearts, but also in the lives of others, especially those who are struggling to gain their human dignity in the midst of poverty, sickness, and need for love and comfort. The joy of Christmas is rooted in sharing Christ's love and presence with others in community. Let us offer the gift of Christ's presence to our loved ones as well as to those who need most our love. Let us be more generous with our gift-giving, knowing that we give on behalf of Him who gave up His life for our sake. The birth of the Emmanuel, which means *God is with us*, highlights the continuing presence of God in our world through the life we live as followers of Christ. May this season strengthen us in our witness to Christ's presence in our midst.

fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Healing Lines

The same joy of togetherness during this Christmas season is parallel to the sadness of indifference and separation brought about by conflict and violence. In the midst of all the violence in our midst, we have to remind ourselves that making peace must start with ourselves, in our families, and in our communities. May we welcome the Prince of Peace who offers us the peace which this world cannot give for our taking.

Mass Schedule for this Weekend

Saturday, December 14 at 5:00 pm: Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah
Sunday, December 15 at 8:30 am Morning Prayer: Fr. Edmund Vargas
Sunday, December 15 at 9:00 am: Fr. Edmund Vargas
Sunday, December 15 at 11:00 am: Fr. Edmund Vargas
Sunday, December 15 at 5:00 pm: Fr. Kelvin 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

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: 6:00 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 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

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24: 4:00pm, 7:00pm (live-streamed), 10:00pm
Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25: Mass: 9:00am, 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed)
Boxing Day, Thursday, December 26: Daily Mass: 9:00am
Friday, December 27: Daily Mass: 9:00 am
Saturday, December 28: Regular Mass: 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 29: Regular Masses: 9:00am, 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed), 5:00 pm
New Years Eve, Tuesday, December 31: Mass: 5:00 pm
New Years Day, Wednesday, January 1: Mass: 9:00 am, 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed)



Events and Announcements

2025 Contribution Envelopes | Narthex | Pick Up December 14 and 15

Next year's 2025 contribution envelopes will be available for pickup in the gathering area on December 14 and 15. 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 | Last Session: December 12, 2024 | 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!

Mission Mexico Sunday | December 14 and 15, 2024 | Donation Boxes in Narthex

Join us in supporting Mission Mexico Day on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Mission Mexico Sunday on December 15. These special days remind us of our call to walk in solidarity with marginalized communities in southern Mexico, providing vital support for education, healthcare, and sustainable development. Let us come together to share hope and transform lives through our generosity. Donation boxes will be in the Narthex the weekend of December 14 and 15. Thank you!

Hamper Delivery Day | Monday, December 16, 2024

A big thank you to all parishioners for their wonderful response to our hamper campaign. Busy hands wrapped all the gifts last Wednesday, the wholesale food was delivered, and this weekend you will see members of our Committee and parish volunteers setting up for our main event, Hamper Assembly and Delivery. Our gratitude goes out to those who are volunteering their time on Hamper Day. You should have received your confirmation email. If you are unable to make your commitment, please visit our on-line schedule and update your volunteer slot. If you missed the sign up, check the volunteer sign-up page, as last-minute cancellations always find us with space to accommodate willing hands! We are supporting 170 families through the Hamper Program, and SSVP is receiving more requests each day. If you have not yet made your donation, there is still time to offer support. Donations may be dropped in the collection, or check out the various ways to support us on the Donate tab on the parish website, www.saintmichael.ca. Donation receipts will be issued in January 2025.



Catholic Women's League | Membership Drive and Family Fun Raffle | Tickets Available until December 16 | Prizes Drawn on December 17

The CWL is now accepting membership renewals and new members for 2025. Membership fees are \$35/year and can be paid by E-transfer to: smcwl-treasurer@gmail.com with the word "membership" in the details, or by cheque payable to St. Michael's CWL, or cash to the parish office. Please include your contact details. Thanks to those who have already renewed their memberships, and a special welcome to our new members! We also recently kicked off our "Family Fun" themed raffle. Thanks to those who have already purchased tickets/donated. Tickets are \$5 each and are available through December 16 by E-transfer to: smcwl-treasurer@gmail.com. Please include your name and phone number. Prizes will be drawn on December 17. / 1st Prize: "Family Fun" themed gift basket valued at \$300 / 2nd Prize: Promix Stand Mixer with baking accessories and mixes valued at \$110 / 3rd Prize: \$50 Visa gift card AGLC Raffle Licence #715200.

Parish-Wide Advent Reconciliation Night | Thursday, December 19, 2024 | Sanctuary | 7:00-9:00pm

There will be a parish-wide Reconciliation Night on Thursday, December 19, 2024 from 7:00-9:00pm with a number of priests available to hear confessions.

"One Starry Night" Children's Christmas Nativity Pageant | Friday, December 20, 2024 | Sanctuary | Mass 6:00pm | Pageant 6:30pm

Rehearsals are now underway for our Children's Nativity Pageant! The sign-up genius is now closed. Please join us on Friday, December 20 with Mass at 6:00pm followed by the Nativity Pageant at 6:30pm and Cookies and Juice afterwards. All are welcome!

Simbang Gabi | Saturday, December 21, 2024 | Sanctuary | Carols 6:30pm | Mass 7:00pm | Reception 7:30pm

Simbang Gabi Mass will be celebrated at our parish on Saturday, December 21, 2024 at 7:00pm, preceded by Carols at 6:30pm. 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 to the reception.

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 or Lee Ettinger at 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.

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 or 403-249-0423, ext.108.

Pastoral Council Update

Pastoral Council met on November 26, 2024, our last meeting of the year. A few highlights of our discussions, and wonderful ways to begin the season of Advent and support SMCC, include: * The High School Choral Festival at SMCC on December 2, * The Diocesan Advent Renewal Mission on December 3 – 5, * The Fund Forward Fundraiser of high-quality protein-products (closes on December 1). Watch the website, the bulletin, and Flocknote messages in your inbox for more details. Meeting minutes from November 26 will be available on the website after our next meeting on January 28, 2025. 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 the minutes from our meeting in October, or any past meeting, please go to: <http://saintmichael.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/SMCC-Pastoral-Council-Minutes-of-Meeting-October-29-2024-Bulletin.pdf>. We wish all parishioners and their families a happy and holy Advent, and blessings for peace and joy at Christmas!

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 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 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>

Pulpitations by Fr. Edmund Vargas

Check out this article featuring our beloved Pastor and his recent publication, Pulpitations. The book is excellent and thoughtful work!
<https://www.catholiccy.ca/blog/pulpitations>

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

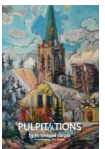
Diocese of Calgary Beyond Bulletin (Full Version): [Diocesan Info for Parishioners - Sunday Updates - Google Docs](#)

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:

December 15	Children's Nativity Pageant Dress Rehearsal Sanctuary 12:00-2:00pm
December 29	CANCELLED: Coffee Sunday
December 16	Christmas Hamper Delivery Day Mass 8:30am Preparation All Day Delivery Evening
December 19, 26	CANCELLED: Moms & Tots
December 19	Parish Wide Reconciliation Night Sanctuary 7:00-9:00pm
December 19	CANCELLED: Knights of Columbus Meeting
Dec. 19, 26, Jan. 2, 9	CANCELLED: Knitting Ministry
December 20	Children's Nativity Pageant Sanctuary Mass 6:00pm Pageant 6:30pm Cookies & Juice 7:30pm
December 21	Simbang Gabi Sanctuary Caroling 6:30pm Mass 7:00pm Reception 7:30pm
Dec. 22, 29, Jan. 5	CANCELLED: Children's Liturgy
Dec. 24, 31	CANCELLED: Rosary Group
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.

Pray For Our Seminarians:

Peter An, Andre Boudreau, Joshua Capicio, Bennet Chacko, Jonathan Dobek, Samuel Ejeregbe, 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
Susan Neri
Leo Pelletier
Elizabeth Myers
Maddy Azalea
Allison George

Julian Dumanski
Maria Duri
Pietro Duri Jr.
Pietro Duri Sr.
Rosa Duri
Talia Duri

Nenite Mirales
Gioia Ceccarini
Helen Gal
Pat Burchnell
Sy Huynh
Elizabeth Slade

For the Souls of:

Funeral:

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.

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 2024	October 2024	November 2024
General Collections			
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
Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)			
Building Fund Collections	\$16,674	\$16,540	\$12,952
Current Loan Balance	\$3,444,039	\$3,420,620	\$3,396,751
Diocesan Annual Campaign			
Together in Action YTD	\$37,456	\$40,428	\$60,507
% TIA Goal \$121,243.00	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.

Saturday, December 14:

5 pm: Intentions of Victora James

Sunday, December 15: 3rd Sunday of Advent

9 am: Antonio Garcia †

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

5 pm: Antonio Vespa †

Tuesday, December 17:

6 pm: Intentions of Jacqueline and John McDougall Family

Wednesday, December 18:

9 am: Intentions of Marlene Mudry

Thursday, December 19:

9 am: Rene Sequeira †

Friday, December 20:

9 am: Simeon Javier †

6 pm: All the Children of St. Michael's and Donald Mustard †

Saturday, December 21:

5 pm: Intentions of Edward and Margaret Tapuska Family

Sunday, December 22: 4th Sunday of Advent

9 am: Intentions of Yvette Tapuska and Families †

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

5 pm: Antonio Vespa †

Contact Us

For General 403-249-0423

Inquiries info@saintmichael.ca

Pastor Fr. Edmund Vargas
fredmund@saintmichael.ca

Associate Pastor Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah
frkelvin@saintmichael.ca

Parish Secretary Loreen Morrison
lmorrison@saintmichael.ca

Admin Assistant Pina Rino
prino@saintmichael.ca

Sacrament Coordinator Francesca Ambrosino
fambrosino@saintmichael.ca

Technical Director Kyle De Jaegher
kdejaegher@saintmichael.ca

Music Director Jim Howells
jhowells@saintmichael.ca

Volunteer Coordinator Marvin Matthews
mmatthews@saintmichael.ca

Children's Liturgy Coordinator Caroline Dixon
cdixon@saintmichael.ca

Bookkeeper accounting@saintmichael.ca