



Saint Michael Catholic Community



800 85 Street SW | 403-249-0423 | info@saintmichael.ca | December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Christmas Appeal

Dear People of God at St. Michael's,

Our warmest greetings for a Blessed Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

We realize that this Christmas will prove to be difficult for many of our struggling families. Hopefully, our Christmas Hamper program helps in making a difference with extra food for the families and gifts for the children.

This post-pandemic period has proven to be difficult and challenging in re-establishing the vibrancy of our parish, in terms of pastoral programs and community events. This is partly due to our financial position we currently find ourselves in.

In summary, we have to contend with the following numbers... **As of November 2024, we have collected \$1,495,542 with a total expense of \$1,561,798, that is, with a running deficit of (\$66,255.71). This includes the Building Fund income and expenses. The loan balance stands at \$3,396,750.73. Our monthly amortization is \$35,000, including \$11,000 monthly loan interest. As of this writing, our Together in Action (TIA) collection is now \$89,506.86 of the goal \$121,243.00 with a balance of \$31,736.14. We have received \$29,999.86 for this month alone.**

With Finance chair Michael McGee and the rest of the membership, we make this appeal for your support in resolving our fiscal dilemma. We realize this is a difficult time for so many of our families. Hopefully, some generous families and individuals would come forward to cover our current shortfall for the rest of our community. If you are planning on making a Christmas donation, perhaps you might consider directing it specifically to TIA, as any shortfall from our obligation will need to be funded from savings!

We continue to be thankful to the Lord for the gifts and blessings that we have received as a faith community through the years. And we thank God for all your efforts to collaborate in our celebrations and activities. May God, who is never outdone in generosity, bless you for your generous love and concern for this community. We express our continuing commitment to work with love and dedication in the Lord's Vineyard in this part of the world...

God bless... Fr. Edmund F. Vargas (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 21 at 5:00 pm: Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah
Sunday, December 22 at 8:30 am Morning Prayer: Fr. Edmund Vargas
Sunday, December 22 at 9:00 am: Fr. Edmund Vargas
Sunday, December 22 at 11:00 am: Fr. Edmund Vargas
Sunday, December 22 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	Fr. Edmund Vargas Fr. Edmund Vargas Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah
Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25:	9:00am 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed)	Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah Fr. Edmund Vargas
Boxing Day, Thursday, December 26:	9:00am	Fr. Edmund Vargas
Friday, December 27:	9:00am	Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah
Saturday, December 28:	5:00pm	Fr. Edmund Vargas
Sunday, December 29:	8:30am Morning Prayer 9:00am 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed) 5:00pm	Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah Fr. Edmund Vargas Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah
New Years Eve, Tuesday, December 31:	5:00pm	Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah
New Years Day, Wednesday, January 1:	9:00am 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed)	Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah Fr. Edmund Vargas

Events and Announcements

2025 Contribution Envelopes | Narthex | Pick Up December 21 and 22

Next year's 2025 contribution envelopes will be available for pickup in the gathering area on December 21 and 22. 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 | 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!

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 efvar-gas@shaw.ca or 403-249-0423, ext.108.

Christmas Hampers 2024 Update

On December 16, in the spirit of our mission to warm hearts and heal wounds, our community provided 167 hampers for 664 people, gifts for 260 children, and diapers for 45 children. God bless our contributors and collaborators, the Knights of Columbus, That Man Is You, Lynda's Coffee Ministry team, staff of John Costello school, our parish schools for their support, Co-op, Safeway, the parish staff, and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul for the referrals. Total expenses include \$64,000 on food, \$10,500 through the Angel Tree. May God continue to bless the love and generosity of our parishioners. Wishing you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas! The Christmas Hamper Committee.

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's 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.catholicyc.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 21	Simbang Gabi Sanctuary 6:30pm Carolling, 7:00pm Mass, 7:30pm Reception
Dec. 22, 29, Jan. 5	CANCELLED: Children's Liturgy
December 26	CANCELLED: Moms & Tots
Dec. 26, Jan. 2, 9	CANCELLED: Knitting Ministry
Dec. 24, 31	CANCELLED: Rosary Group
December 29	CANCELLED: Coffee Sunday
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	Julian Dumanski	Nenite Mirales
Susan Neri	Maria Duri	Gioia Ceccarini
Leo Pelletier	Pietro Duri Jr.	Helen Gal
Elizabeth Myers	Peitro Duri Sr.	Pat Burchnall
Maddy Azalea	Rosa Duri	Sy Huynh
Allison George	Talia Duri	Elizabeth Slade

For the Souls of:

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 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 21:

5 pm: Intentions of Edward & Margaret Tapuska Family

Sunday, December 22: 4th Sunday of Advent

9 am: Intentions of Yvette Tapuska & Families

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

5 pm: Antonio Vespa †

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve

4 pm: Bill Tapuska †

7 pm: Leslie Choquette †

10 pm: Hilda Cassis †

Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Day

9 am: Bill Tapuska †

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

Thursday, December 26:

9 am: Intentions of Katherine & Doug Koop Family

Friday, December 27:

9 am: Bill Tapuska †

Saturday, December 28:

5 pm: Michael Joseph Finn †

Sunday, December 29: The Most Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9 am: Cecilia McGrath †

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

5 pm: Rosa Scalise †

Contact Us

For General 403-249-0423

Inquiries info@saintmichael.ca

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Volunteer Coordinator Marvin Matthews
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Children's Liturgy Coordinator Caroline Dixon
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Bookkeeper accounting@saintmichael.ca