



# Saint Michael Catholic Community

800 85th Street SW  
Calgary, Alberta  
T3H 4C7

February 23, 2025: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Loving Our Enemies

In our lives, we are subjected to a retaliation mentality that affects us all. From the sports arena to the criminal justice system, forgiveness, or anything that amounts to it, is regarded as a weakness. But nothing in the Christian life is more radical and more challenging than the mandate to love our enemies, to do good to those who mistreat us, or to lend without any expectation of return. Jesus becomes our model for such unconditional love and mercy in His entire ministry, especially as when He was dying on the cross.

We find it very easy to desire retaliation against those who hurt or hate us. We find this human tendency creeping into our personal lives. We want to get even with others. If our loved ones hurt us, even in some little way, we sometimes find ourselves saying to ourselves or at least thinking about getting back at them. God's mercy challenges us to a much higher standard. And then there is that daunting implication of that part in the Lord's Prayer when we ask God to forgive us in the same way that we forgive others. God also provides us with powerful witness of His love and mercy, showing us that it is possible to embrace the perpetrators as well as the victims of crimes. The heroic witness of forgiving by victims is an inspiration to put into practice the infinite mercy of God in our own respective lives.

In my earlier years in the ministry back in my own diocese in the Philippines, one of my homilies on the moral aspects of political elections made a friend and co-worker of my father upset with what I had to preach. He hated me for the strong words I used to condemn certain election practices which he considered part of the political circus. I did not react to his inimical attitude to my own person. I offered a prayer of forgiveness to God for my father's good friend and continued to do so until after two years later I saw him in Church again and offered to have coffee together after the service. There is a story about a former inmate of a Nazi concentration Camp who visited a friend who shared the ordeal with him. "Have you forgiven the Nazis?", he asked. "Yes", his friend answered. "Well, I haven't. I'm still consumed with hatred for them", he retorted. "In that case", his friend said gently, "They still have you in prison".

In daily transactions with others, we have lots of opportunities to practice this demanding imperative. There are those unfriendly people we encounter in social places, fellow parishioners or priests who don't respond to our cheerful greeting, or those motorists who irritate us on the road. Will it be our best self or our worst self that responds? Each encounter becomes an opportunity to become more like Jesus who was able to say at the last moments of His life: "Father, forgive them, they do not know what they do". These loving and forgiving words capture Christ's basic attitude in human relationships.

As we gather in worship, let us ask the Lord to transform us into a community of reconciliation, a forgiving community of the forgiven. Let us strive to make love and forgiveness not only an occasional act, but a permanent attitude.

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

## New Social Media Consultancy

We are thrilled to announce that **Mario Toneguzzi** will be working with St. Michael's to enhance and amplify the Community's social media. Mario is a veteran of the media industry for more than 40 years and named in 2021 and 2024 a Top Business Journalist in the world. He was also named by RETHINK to its global list of Top Retail Experts 2024 and 2025. He is Co-Editor-In-Chief at Retail Insider, Managing Editor at Canada's Podcast, a national free-lancer and owner of Mario Toneguzzi Communications Inc. <https://bit.ly/3vexSj7> Mario can be reached at [mdtoneguzzi@gmail.com](mailto:mdtoneguzzi@gmail.com)

## Church Schedule:

### Weekday & Weekend Masses:

Tuesday: 6:00 pm  
Wednesday to Friday: 9:00 am  
Saturday: 5:00 pm  
Sunday: 8:30 am Morning Prayer  
Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 5:00 pm

**Live-Stream:** Sunday 11:00 am  
at [saintmichael.ca/Mass](http://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

### Anointing of the Sick:

24 Hour Emergency Diocese Hotline  
403-231-9505

## Contact Us:

### Office:

Phone: 403-249-0423 [info@saintmichael.ca](mailto:info@saintmichael.ca)

### Pastor:

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

### Associate Pastor:

Fr. Kelvin Chukwurah [frkelvin@saintmichael.ca](mailto:frkelvin@saintmichael.ca)

### Secretary:

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

### Administration Assistant:

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

### Sacrament Coordinator/Columbarium Manager:

Francesca Ambrosino [fambrosino@saintmichael.ca](mailto:fambrosino@saintmichael.ca)

### Music Director:

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

### Volunteer Coordinator:

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

### Children's Liturgy Coordinator:

Caroline Dixon [cdixon@saintmichael.ca](mailto:cdixon@saintmichael.ca)

### Technical Director:

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

### Bookkeeper:

Michelle Gregory [accounting@saintmichael.ca](mailto:accounting@saintmichael.ca)

## **Healing Lines**

People who reveal that they have been abused often have suffered for a very long time. They may not trust their own judgments or feelings. They may have low self-esteem. They may blame themselves for what is happening. They may feel that they are powerless. But we can empower them by giving them options. Help them to think of several alternative safety plans, so that they can choose which ones best suit their needs. Respond in the way we would to any friend who is in crisis. Be available to talk. Help out and show that we care about what happens to them. They deserve to live in safety. Call Connect at 403-237-5888.

## **Parish Consecration to Jesus in the Eucharist**

### **DAY 4 THE PURPOSEFUL PILGRIM**

"What do we approach with the same passion and commitment, determination and steadfastness as Jesus approached Jerusalem?" Please read Day 4 in your 33 *Days to Eucharistic Glory* book. Here is a reflection by Fr. Jonathan Meyer: [Day 4 What's Your Focus?](#) Any questions or comments click on this link: <https://forms.gle/XSxAXUPWACLHbdBr7>



## **Women's Ministry Bible Study**

A seven-week bible study, called "*The Sorrowful Mysteries*" by *Paradisus Dei*, will be offered by the Women's Ministry on Wednesdays beginning February 12 to April 9, 2025 (no session on March 5). In-person sessions will be from 9:30am-12:00pm in the St. Nicholas Room or Zoom sessions from 7:00-9:00pm. Please register at [womensministry@saintmichael.ca](mailto:womensministry@saintmichael.ca).



## **Feed the Hungry**

St. Michael's Catholic Community will be sponsoring Feed the Hungry on February 16, April 27, and June 15, 2025. Thank you to all who signed up for the February dinner. Please watch for sign-up sheets for April 27 in early April.



## **Altar Server Party**

Calling all present AND FUTURE Altar Servers and their families and friends! Please join us for our first celebration of the year on Friday, February 21 at 6:00pm. It will begin with a Mass followed by pizza, a special talk by Fr. Edmund, and fellowship.



## **Human Trafficking Awareness Day**

Please join IWIN in a Red Sand Prayer Service to bring awareness and to pray for survivors of human trafficking. Prayer service will take place outside the main doors of St. Michael's following each Mass the week-end of February 22 and 23, 2025.



## **Family Adoration**

All families are welcome to join us for our first family adoration night on Friday, February 28 from 5:00pm-6:00pm in the Main Sanctuary. There will be praise and worship music, as well as prayer moments for children.



## **Potluck Sunday**

The next Potluck Sunday for St. Michael Community will be on March 2, 2025 at 6:00pm. This is a free event. Please bring a main dish, bread, salad, pickles, vegetable tray, or dessert ready to serve. Upcoming potlucks are: April 6, May 4, and June 1.



## **Shrove Tuesday**

Shrove Tuesday, also known as Mardi Gras, marks the start of Lent, evolving into a time of celebrating and feasting, like a final opportunity for indulgence before the period of fasting and penance. It is also a significant liturgical movement towards the spiritual discipline of Lent. It is geared towards building community. The Knights of Columbus is hosting a dinner with Marvin's quartet playing on Tuesday, March 4 at 7:00pm. Please RSVP by Friday, February 28 at: <https://forms.gle/7hxG5Q1cKugCgaR99>



## **Church Wedding for Civilly Married Couples**

Inviting all civilly married couples in our Diocese to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Catholic Church. This special celebration will be presided over by Bishop McGrattan on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 1:30 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral. Information sessions on how to participate will be available on Thursday, March 6 at 6:00pm at St. Michael's Parish, Calgary. Register at <https://www.catholiccy.ca/sacredgrace.html>



## **CWL General Meeting**

The St. Michael's CWL General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:00pm (following Mass and Rosary) in St. Michael's Room. Business meeting with welcome to new members and fellowship to follow. All members and visitors are welcome to attend.



## **Face-to-Face Youth Night (Gr. 6-8)**

There will be a Youth Night for Grades 6-8 with Face-To-Face Ministries on Saturday, March 15, 2025 from 6:30-8:30pm. Pizza will be provided. This is a free event; no registration is needed. Join us for fun, fellowship, and faith! Other dates are: April 26, May 10, June 14.



## **Pilgrimage to Rome 2025**

Fr. Edmund is leading a holy pilgrimage to Rome on November 19-27 this coming Holy Year 2025! Please check it out online at <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1241218>. For more details, contact Fr. Edmund at [efvargas@shaw.ca](mailto:efvargas@shaw.ca) or (403) 874-2015.



## **2025 Contribution Envelopes**

If you haven't picked up next year's 2025 contribution envelopes they are available for pickup in the office.



## **Art Walk 2025**



We invite artists and photographers from beginners to professionals to register to showcase their works at the upcoming Art Walk 2025 on March 8 & 9, 2025. The cut off date to register is February 23, 2025. For more information, go on line to <https://saintmichael.ca/events/> or pick up a form in the Narthex after Mass.

## **Lenten Healing Retreat**



**March 25 and March 26 - 7:00pm-8:45pm:**

**Holy Mass / Talk / Adoration**

**March 27 - 7:00pm-10:00pm:**

**Healing Mass / Adoration / Healing Service**

This retreat brings life's struggles to the source of all healing through Jesus to be transformed by His grace. "*I Thirst*" (John 19:28) is a Lenten Healing Retreat presented by Shalom Media Ministry in association with St. Michael Catholic Community. The retreat offers a unique opportunity for the faithful, thirsting for divine intimacy, to gather and seek healing of mind, body, and soul, led by Fr. Roy Palatty, a gifted priest and world-renowned speaker. Fr. Palatty will lead you in Holy Mass, a spiritual talk, silent reflection in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and special prayers. A Healing Mass/Service and Blessings for the sick will also be offered at this faith-filled, life-changing event. For more information, please visit the website: [www.saintmichael.ca](http://www.saintmichael.ca)

## **Pastoral Council**

Highlights of our last meeting: \* The Eucharistic Adoration Ministry hopes to expand Eucharistic Adoration at Saint Michael. \* The Parish Renewal Team is looking forward to sharing highlights of the renewal survey. \* Watch for a "Tap to Give" machine soon to be installed in the Narthex. Meeting minutes from January 28 will be available on the website after our next meeting on February 25, 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 last or any past meeting, please go to: <http://saintmichael.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/SMCC-Pastoral-Council-Minutes-of-Meeting-November-26-2024-Bulletin.pdf>

## **Feed the Hungry**



Thank you to the approximately 60 volunteers from St. Michael Catholic Community who volunteered at Feed the Hungry on Sunday, February 16. It was a blessing to be able to serve those who are less fortunate with a warm meal and fellowship on a bitterly cold day. Our next opportunity to serve as a community will be on April 27, Divine Mercy Sunday. Please watch for sign-up sheets in the Narthex in late March.

## **Knights of Columbus**



The next monthly meeting will be on Thursday, February 20 at 7:00pm in the Theater.

## **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul**



ASSISTANCE: contact [SSVP@saintmichael.ca](mailto:SSVP@saintmichael.ca) or phone 403-249-0423, ext. 122. DONATIONS of non-perishables and monetary: drop off at SSVP Food Chest in the Narthex.

MONETARY DONATIONS: go to <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-vincent-de-paul-society-st-michaels-conference/>.

NEW MEMBERS: contact [SSVP@saintmichael.ca](mailto:SSVP@saintmichael.ca).

## **Week-at-a-Glance (February 23-March 1, 2025) :**



### **Sunday:**

- Coffee Connection: After 9am and 11am Mass

### **Monday:**

- Bible Study: St. Nicholas Room, 7:00-9:00pm

### **Tuesday:**

- Rosary Group: Day Chapel, 6:30pm
- Grief Share Program: Rooms 143 & 144, 7:00pm
- RCIA: St. Nicholas Room, 7:00-9:00pm
- Pastoral Council Meeting: St. Michael's Room, 7:00pm
- SSVP Monthly Meeting: Room 145, 7:00pm

### **Wednesday:**

- Men's Ministry: Theatre, 6:00-7:30am
- Coffee Connection: After 9am Mass
- Women's Ministry: St. Nicholas Room, 9:30am-12:00pm

### **Thursday:**

- Knitting Ministry: Library, 10:00am-12:00pm

### **Friday:**

- Family Adoration Night: Sanctuary, 5:00pm

### **Saturday:**

- No events.

**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](#)

### 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, February 22:**

5 pm: Rosa Rino Sr. † (Fr. Edmund)

#### **Sunday, February 23:**

9 am: Michael Ball † (Fr. Kelvin)

11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael's (Fr. Edmund)

5 pm: Int. Nicole Gonsalves and Family (Fr. Kelvin)

#### **Tuesday, February 25:**

6 pm: Freddy Valbuena † (Fr. Edmund)

#### **Wednesday, February 26:**

9 am: Int. Vanessa Corey (Fr. Edmund)

#### **Thursday, February 27:**

9 am: Ryan Summers † (Fr. Kelvin)

#### **Friday, February 28:**

9 am: Michael Ball † (Fr. Kelvin)

#### **Saturday, March 1:**

5 pm: William Hall † (Fr. Kelvin)

#### **Sunday, March 2:**

9 am: Patria Enriquez †, Victoriano Sariago † &  
Romarte Enriquez † (Fr. Kelvin)

11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael's (Fr. Edmund)

5 pm: Bill Reinwart Sr. † (Fr. Edmund)

### **Gifts to the Parish**

|                                            | <b>November<br/>2024</b> | <b>December<br/>2024</b> | <b>January<br/>2025</b> |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b><u>General Collections</u></b>          |                          |                          |                         |
| Collections                                | \$98,134                 | \$215,611                | \$107,778               |
| Other Income                               | \$20,264                 | \$52,803                 | \$11,865                |
| Operating Costs                            | \$101,152                | \$139,917                | \$118,929               |
| Surplus (Shortfall)                        | \$17,246                 | \$128,497                | \$714                   |
| <b><u>Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)</u></b> |                          |                          |                         |
| Building Fund Collections                  | \$12,952                 | \$131,594                | \$112,737               |
| <b><u>Current Loan Balance</u></b>         | \$3,396,751              | \$3,373,171              | \$3,349,592             |
| <b><u>Diocesan Annual Campaign</u></b>     |                          |                          |                         |
| Together in Action<br>Year-to-Date         | \$60,507                 | \$121,243                | \$49,900                |
| <b>% TIA Goal \$121,243.00</b>             | 49%                      | 100%                     | 41%                     |
| Society St. Vincent de Paul<br>(monthly)   | \$30,587                 | \$4,868                  | \$8,462                 |
| Christmas Hamper<br>(before expenses)      |                          | \$67,255                 |                         |

### Please Pray For:

*If you would like to request a prayer for a loved one,  
please email the office with your request,  
noting consent.*

Elizabeth Myers, Maddy Azalea, Allison Gervais,  
Maria Duri, Pietro Duri Jr., Peitro Duri Sr., Rosa Duri,  
Talia Duri, Nenite Mirales, Gioia Ceccarini, Helen Gal,  
Pat Burchnall, Anne Arendt, Cyril Boudreau,  
Frank Swacha, Stew Perram, Maurice Claerhout,  
Fr. Jim Bleackley, Clinton Walsh, Elizabeth Slade

### For the Souls Of:

Isabel de Jesus

### Funeral:

### Pray For Our Seminarians:

Please pray for vocations in our Diocese.

### Eternal Springs Columbarium:

The Columbarium at St. Michael's offers a consecrated  
and sacred space where the cremated remains of de-  
parted loved ones rest in perpetuity.

For pricing or more information,  
please email [columbarium@saintmichael.ca](mailto:columbarium@saintmichael.ca).

### 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.

### 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**.