



# Saint Michael Catholic Community

800 85th Street SW  
Calgary, Alberta  
T3H 4C7

November 30, 2025: 1st Sunday of Advent



## Christmas Mass Schedule



### Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24:

Daily Mass 9:00am / Eve Mass: 4:00pm, 7:00pm (live-streamed), 10:00pm

### Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25:

9:00am, 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed)

### Boxing Day, Friday, December 26:

Daily Mass 9:00am

### New Years Eve, Wednesday, December 31:

Daily Mass 9:00am / Eve Mass: 5:00 pm

### New Years Day, Thursday, January 1:

9:00am, 11:00am (with incense and live-streamed)

## The Advent of Christ's Presence

Advent is a way of re-introducing Christ's presence into our lives. It is a period of re-opening our eyes of faith to the reality of God's becoming present in our humanity through Christ. It is an opportunity for us to re-examine the various ways of God's presence in our midst, brought about by the Mystery of the Incarnation whose fullness was realized when Christ was born in time and in flesh.

Christ is present in the Sacraments, particularly in the Eucharist which He has commanded us to celebrate to perpetuate His presence. Christ is duly present in the papacy and the priesthood. Christ is present in Scripture, defined as the word of God in words of men. In the ministry of preaching, we have to understand the difficult meaning of the prophetic office of the Church where the preacher's words, however inadequate, are used by Christ to convey His message. We have to acknowledge more and more Christ's presence in our midst as we remind ourselves of His own words that He is in our midst every time we pray together in His name. Christ's presence in each of us, created in His image and likeness, is a level of divine presence we have to appreciate more and more. To see the face of Christ in the poor and the destitute is for us more theoretical than real. Christ is present in the flashes of insight that open our eyes to see and recognize our wounded humanity which He has redeemed. The levels of Christ's presence are too varied and too numerous to be missed, if only we have an open mind and heart.

Advent is the liturgical preparation to renew our faith in these different levels of Christ's presence. It is about re-discovering Christ's presence in our life. It is about becoming more aware of Christ's presence in our search for healing and wholeness in our wounded humanity.

As a Church, we are a community of presence. We commit to a ministry of presence, to make Christ transparent in our lives, to be Christ's hands and feet in this earthly pilgrimage. Christian life is about presence, about being generous with our time with others. During this season of giving, let us give gifts of personal presence, like promising to visit a sick or dying friend or committing to a date-night with your spouse or volunteering to help with housework. The best things we can give as gifts are not things. This season is about self-giving, following the example of Christ who gave up His divinity to share in our humanity, rooted in the first Christmas, when Christ decided to be present in our midst through His becoming flesh and living among us.

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

## 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 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 8:00 pm

## Office Hours:

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

## 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)

## Administrative Assistant:

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

## Office Assistant and

## Volunteer Coordinator:

Gladys Doh [gdoh@saintmichael.ca](mailto:gdoh@saintmichael.ca)

## Sacrament Coordinator and

## Columbarium Manager:

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

## Music Director:

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

## Anointing of the Sick:

Diocese of Calgary Call Center:

403-231-9505

Alberta Children Hospital; Foothills Hospital;  
Peter Lougheed Hospital; Rockyview General

## 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.



## Fr. Edmund's 70th Birthday Celebration



Join us in celebrating Fr. Edmund's 70th Birthday on Friday, December 5, 2025!! Mass will be celebrated at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Narthex hosted by the Knights of Columbus. If you would like to attend, please RVSP to [efvargas@shaw.ca](mailto:efvargas@shaw.ca) or text 403-874-2015.

## Coffee Connections



On November 30, Coffee Sunday will be held after 9am Mass, but will be cancelled after the 11am Mass. The last day for Coffee Wednesday will be December 17, 2025 and will resume on January 7, 2026.

## Elevator



The elevator is back in service! Thank you for your patience while the upgrade was taking place. Those who are interested in supporting this special project (\$61,766.14 + tax) may contact the Office or Fr. Edmund for details.

## 2026 Donation Envelopes



Next year's 2026 donation envelopes are ready for pick up this weekend, November 29 and 30. They are arranged alphabetically on tables by the main washrooms. Continue to use your 2025 envelopes until the new year. Please note: you may use envelopes only for the **current year**, all previous year's envelopes must be discarded.

## Advent Renewal Diocesan Retreat (Day Chapel)



**Saturday, December 6, 9:30am to 12:30pm.**

**Coffee and muffins will be served in the Narthex at 9:00am.**

Were you tired and worn out before Christmas last year? Did you spend enough time preparing for the true reason for the season? If you could have a "do over" would you take it? This year, why not begin your Christmas preparations with a half-day Advent retreat that will renew your spirit of listening as you enter the holy season of Advent. Join Archbishop Terrence Prendergast for a reflective diocesan retreat on how the living Word of God shapes our hearts for discipleship and mission. He is the author of *Living God's Word: Reflections on the Sunday Readings (Years A, B & C)*, a three-volume series based on his Gospel reflections originally published in *The Catholic Register*, Canada's national Catholic newspaper. The archbishop is full of guidance and wisdom that will aid us all in our journey through Advent.

## Advent: A Season of Hope and Renewal



As we begin the holy season of Advent, the Church invites us into a time of watchfulness, reflection, and joyful expectation for the coming of Christ. In the spirit of the Jubilee Year proclaimed by Pope Francis last year and set to conclude this December, our Diocese is launching a matching financial campaign for parishes called, **Multiply the Hope**. Once our parish has fulfilled all of its financial obligations for the year, every dollar contributed to **reduce our parish loan** will be matched dollar-for-dollar, up to our parish goal. Even after the Jubilee year concludes on December 28 this year, the Diocese has extended this campaign to the end of 2027, giving us additional time to reach our parish goal. Our goal for this matching program is **\$510,569**. This means that every contribution toward this goal has twice the impact, allowing our parish to move forward with greater freedom in strengthening the renewal priorities. As we enter this Advent season, we invite you to pray, to reflect, and to respond generously. Together, let us prepare a strong, welcoming parish home for all who seek Christ. May this season of expectation fill us with hope, and may God complete the good work He has begun in us. Find out more about this campaign at [www.catholiccyrc.ca/multiplythehope](http://www.catholiccyrc.ca/multiplythehope)

## Parish-Wide Advent Reconciliation Night

There will be a parish-wide reconciliation night on Thursday, December 18, 2025 from 7:00-9:00pm with a number of priests available to hear confessions. Consider this an opportunity to receive God's mercy and grace.

## Christmas Craft Market

Looking for beautiful local, handmade gifts and Catholic items? Join us at the St. Michael's Christmas Craft Market on Sunday, November 30, 2025 after 9am and 11am Mass until 2pm. Located upstairs in the Mezzanine. If you are interested in being a vendor, please contact Natalia Januszewski by phone: 825-558-7300 or email: [natali-ajan101@gmail.com](mailto:natali-ajan101@gmail.com).



## Fall Fundraiser

The last day to get your order in for our fundraiser is Sunday, November 30, 2025! With any purchase, you contribute to our Church's finances while enjoying some delicious food over the Advent and Christmas period. orders can be picked up on Tuesday, December 9 from 4:00-5:00 pm at St. Michael's Church. Please go to this link: [St. Michael's 2025 Fall Fundraiser – Fund Forward](#)



## Potluck Sunday

Potluck Sundays for St. Michael Community will be on the first Sunday of each month at 6:00pm. The next Potluck Sunday will be on December 7, 2025. This is a free event. Please bring a main dish, bread, salad, pickles, vegetable tray, or dessert to share with others.



## The Rite of Commissioning for All Liturgical Ministers



The Rite of Commissioning for all Liturgical Ministers will be held at all the November 29 and November 30 weekend Masses. During these First Sunday of Advent Masses, Auxiliary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist (who require a written mandate from the Bishop) come forward after the homily and are joined by the other liturgical ministers 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.



## Children's Nativity Pageant: "Joy to the World"

This year's Confirmation Candidates, Kids' Kingdom, and Friends proudly present "JOY TO THE WORLD", our annual Children's Nativity Pageant. It will take place on Gaudete Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary. Mass at 11:00am will precede the pageant and fellowship will follow the pageant in the Narthex. Tickets are free. Please RSVP as soon as possible [HERE](#). Questions? Contact the Children's Liturgy Coordinator at [cdixon@saintmichael.ca](mailto:cdixon@saintmichael.ca). We look forward to seeing you all on Gaudete Sunday!

## Elevation Youth Group (Gr. 4-6)

Youths in Grade 4-6 are invited to join our brand new youth group: *ELEVATION youth*! Join us on Fridays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the St. Nicholas room for devotions, snacks, games, faith, and fun! The next session of the program is on December 19 and will run until the spring. Pre-registration is required and capacity is dependent on volunteer availability. Register by scanning the QR code or by emailing [youth@saintmichael.ca](mailto:youth@saintmichael.ca). All are welcome! We are also looking for volunteers to supervise activities, help with games, and provide a small snack for the group each week. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Gladys Doh [gdoh@saintmichael.ca](mailto:gdoh@saintmichael.ca) or our group leader Abigail Lewis at [youth@saintmichael.ca](mailto:youth@saintmichael.ca).



## Men's Ministry

The last session for this 2025 year will be on Wednesday, December 3 and will be in the Day Chapel. Men's Ministry will resume on January 21, 2026 in the Theater and continue until April 15, 2026.

## Simbang Gabi

Simbang Gabi Mass will be celebrated at our parish on Friday, December 20, 2025 at 7:00pm, preceded by carols at 6:30pm and 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 to the reception.

## Christmas Hamper Program

*"You, O Lord, are my hope." (Ps 71:5)*

**Hamper Day: Monday, December 15, 2025.**

**We plan to prepare and deliver 170 hampers.**

We have been busy accepting referrals from parish schools and our SSVP. We have reached maximum capacity, so your support is needed more than ever.

**Volunteers:** Many thanks to all who responded so enthusiastically last weekend to our call for volunteers. More than 200 positions were filled, although we still need a few volunteers to help with Hamper Assembly during the daytime on December 15<sup>th</sup>, and more drivers to help deliver that evening. Please use the link/QR Code below to sign up or come see the Hamper Committee Volunteers who will be stationed in the Narthex after all Masses this weekend.

**Gifts for Children:** Thanks also to those who signed out an Angel from the Angel Tree to provide a gift. If you have signed out an Angel, it is very important to return the gift by the deadline to allow time to prepare it. If you cannot provide your gift in time, please either call the Parish Office or email [christmashampers@saintmichael.ca](mailto:christmashampers@saintmichael.ca)

**Referrals:** Referrals for a hamper are accepted from parish schools, and through the SSVP intake line at 825-417-1720

**Donate:** We provide this program only through the generous financial support of our parishioners. Donations may be made:

- \* the collection box, noted for Christmas Hampers,
- \* online at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/33185>
- \* or via the QR Code.

Tax receipts will be issued in Jan 2026.

**Questions:** [christmashampers@saintmichael.ca](mailto:christmashampers@saintmichael.ca)



## Knitting Ministry

We recently donated 193 knit/crochet items (hats, scarves, mitts) to two charities. Other members of our group have donated 50 pair of knit slippers to the Veterans Association and 32 little knit dolls to the Christmas shoebox project. Our last meeting before Christmas is Dec. 11 and we will resume on Jan. 8. If you knit or crochet, please join us on Thursdays, 10am - 12pm in the library!



## Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Need assistance? Contact [SSVP@saintmichael.ca](mailto:SSVP@saintmichael.ca) or phone 825-417-1720. 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: [SSVP@saintmichael.ca](mailto:SSVP@saintmichael.ca). Annual Report: <https://www.ssvpstmichael.ca/annual-report-2024/>



## Diocese of Calgary Beyond Bulletin (Full Version):

[Diocesan Info for Parishioners - Sunday Updates - Google Docs](#)

## Diocese of Calgary Beyond Bulletin (Short Version):

[Current Bulletin Insert.pdf - Google Drive](#)

**Week-at-a-Glance: (Sat. Nov. 29, 2025 - Sun. Dec. 7, 2025):****Saturday, November 29:**

Advent Recollection (Filipino Catholic Society): Day Chapel, 10:00am-12:00am  
 Christmas Hamper Volunteer Sign-Up & Angel Tree: Narthex, after all Masses  
 Saturday Night Lights Gr. 7-12: Sanctuary, 7:00pm

**Sunday, November 30:**

Children's Liturgy: 8:30am and 10:30am  
 Coffee Sunday: Narthex, after 9:00am Mass  
 CANCELLED Coffee Sunday: after 11:00am Mass  
 Christmas Hamper Volunteer Sign-Up & Angel Tree: Narthex, after all Masses  
 SMCC Christmas Market: Mezzanine, 10:00am-2:00pm (closed during Mass)

**Monday, December 1:**

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

**Tuesday, December 2:**

Rosary Group: Day Chapel, 5:20pm  
 RCIA: St. Nicholas Room, 7:00-9:00pm

**Wednesday, December 3:**

Men's Ministry: Moved to Day Chapel for today, 6:00am-7:30am  
 Coffee Wednesday: Narthex, after 9am Mass

**Thursday, December 4:**

Moms & Tots: St. Nicholas' Room, 9:30am-11:30am  
 Knitting Ministry: Library, 10:00am-12:00pm

**Friday, December 5:**

Fr. Edmund's 70th Birthday: Mass Sanctuary 6:00pm, Reception to follow

**Saturday, December 6:**

Advent Renewal Retreat (Livestreamed): Day Chapel, 9:00am-12:30pm

**Sunday, December 7:**

Children's Liturgy: 8:30am and 10:30am  
 Coffee Sunday: Narthex, after 9:00am Mass & 11:00am Mass  
 Potluck & Name Tag Sunday: Narthex, 6:00pm-8:00pm

**Mass Intentions:**

*Mass Intentions are booked in person at the office.  
 Mass Intentions are not final and can be moved to  
 accommodate urgent pastoral needs.*

**Saturday, November 29:**

5 pm: Gilberto Gudino † (Fr. Kelvin)

**Sunday, November 30:**

9 am: Sor Maria Luisa Espitia † (Fr. Edmund)  
 11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael (Fr. Edmund)  
 5 pm: Maria Talarico † (Fr. Kelvin)

**Tuesday, December 2:**

6 pm: Sebastian & Marie Rocha † (Fr. Edmund)

**Wednesday, December 3:**

9 am: Ma Estrella Villablanca † (Fr. Edmund)

**Thursday, December 4:**

9 am: Lianne Hayes † (Fr. Kelvin)

**Friday, December 5:**

9 am: Marrisa Tom † (Fr. Kelvin)

**Saturday, December 6:**

5 pm: Brian Roach † (Fr. Edmund)

**Sunday, December 7:**

9 am: Int. Francisca Infante de Vega (Fr. Kelvin)  
 11 am: For the People of God at St. Michael (Fr. Edmund)  
 5 pm: Marianne Shavik † (Fr. Kelvin)

**Please Pray For:**

*Please contact the office with your request.*

Duri Family, Cyril Boudreau, Brenda Arseneault,  
 Peter Ciavarella, Justin Hewitt, Richard Edgington,  
 Ada Kerpan, Pamela Chaput, Malaya Rosales, Christine Estor,  
 Julie Parinas, Peigi's Family, Ernesto Soliman.

**For the Souls Of:****Funeral:****Pray For Our Seminarians:**

Please pray for vocations in our Diocese.

**Eternal Springs Columbarium:**

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

**E-Transfer:**

Sign in to your own banking institution and e-transfer the  
 amount to: [isupport@saintmichael.ca](mailto:isupport@saintmichael.ca).

**Text to Donate:**

To set up your account, text **give** to **833-768-0514**  
 and follow the prompt.

**Sexual Abuse in the Church:**

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**.

**Gifts to the Parish**

|                                            | August<br>2025 | September<br>2025 | October<br>2025 |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b><u>General Collections</u></b>          |                |                   |                 |
| Collections                                | \$87,509       | \$104,710         | \$115,426       |
| Other Income                               | \$20,917       | \$15,356          | \$58,215        |
| Operating Costs                            | \$124,903      | \$113,471         | \$143,988       |
| Surplus (Shortfall)                        | (\$16,477)     | \$6,595           | \$29,653        |
| <b><u>Central Fund Loan (Mortgage)</u></b> |                |                   |                 |
| Building Fund Collections                  | \$11,322       | \$11,754          | \$12,744        |
| <b><u>Current Loan Balance</u></b>         | \$3,179,800    | \$3,155,140       | \$3,130,740     |
| <b><u>Diocesan Annual Campaign</u></b>     |                |                   |                 |
| Together in Action<br>Year-to-Date         | \$77,040       | \$79,665          | \$88,418        |
| <b>% TIA Goal \$121,243.00</b>             | 63%            | 65%               | 73%             |
| Society St. Vincent de Paul<br>(monthly)   | \$1056         | \$1968            | \$1046          |